

Series "The God Who Serves"
"Conditions Of The Heart"
Mark 4:1-20
Study-13

This Is The Most Important Parable Jesus Ever Taught. Mark 4:13

This parable is the key to understanding the response to the gospel message.

The key words in this passage are hear, heard and listen – used 8X in Verses 1-20. Hearing means "listening with spiritual understanding and receptivity."

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Condition Of One's Heart Determines The Results Of God's Word Either Being That Of Fruitfulness Or Barrenness"

- 1. Verses 1-9 – Parable Of The Sower**
- 2. Verses 10-13 – Parable And The Purpose**
- 3. Verses 14-20 – Parable And The Heart**

1. Verses 1-9 – Parable Of The Sower:

Mark 4:1

Verses 1-2 – The Setting For The Parable: "And He began to teach again by the sea."

Mark 3:7-6:6 – "The Popularity of Jesus"

Mark 3:9 – "boat should stand ready"

Mark 4:2

John 21:25

Mark 4:33-34

"Parable" – is made up of two words: Para – "alongside", ballo – "to throw or cast"; so, "To cast alongside"

Charles Spurgeon said, "The sermon is the house; the illustrations are the windows that let the light in."

Mark 4:3

This parable is recorded in Matt 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-21

The focus is the "Soils." The Nature of the soil will determine whether the seed will produce fruit.

Mark 4:4-9

2. Verses 10-13 – Parable And The Purpose:

Mark 4:10-11

Mystery – "something once hidden or formerly unknown but now has been revealed"

Mark 4:12 – "One of the difficult statements of Jesus."

Isa 6:9-10

Purpose Of The Parables: Parables Were To Get The Person's Attention: Jesus was reaching out to the hard-hearted; Great lengths to reach them!

Purpose Of The Parables: Those With Understanding Would Receive Further Truth. Mark 4:24

Purpose Of The Parables: To Allow Those That Don't Care And Reject The Message To Remain Lost: Hebrews 10:26

We say "if a person does not receive Jesus Christ they will be lost!" We should say "They will continue to be lost, because they are already lost."

Mark 4:13

3. Verses 14-20 – Parable And The Heart:

Mark 4:14

"The sower" – Is Jesus Christ. Matt. 13:37

1 Cor. 3:9 – (The Sower Is Not The Problem)

"Seed" – "The sower sows the word. Luke 8:11 – (The Seed Is Not The Problem)

Lev. 19:19

Jesus Reveals 4 Conditions Of The Heart:

1. Verse 15 – The Hard Hearted:

1. They Have Become Hardened By A So-Called Open Mind:
2. Made Hard Through Our Own Reasoning:
3. Make Themselves Hard Through Their Lifestyle:
4. They Have Become Hard Through Experience:

2 Corinthians 4:4

2. Verses 16-17 – Hollow Hearted: Mark 4:16

“immediately receive it with joy;” – (On Fire, Radical)

Mark 4:17

“they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary;” –
They have not had the heart changed; Emotional only, feelings only

1. They hear an emotional appeal.
2. They hear the message while going through a trial and, under pressure, make a decision.

The Contemporary Church “Heart felt needs”; Thinking of God as one to fix my problems, instead of God that I seek mercy from (Helpless-Sinner)!

“affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.” The sun is not negative to a good soil or heart.

The message has hit the emotions but not the mind and the will.

3. Verses 18-19 – Half Hearted

Jesus Identifies 3 Types Of Weeds:

Mark 4:19

1. Weeds Of Worries – “worries of the world,” – (Literally “The distractions of this age.”)

2. Weeds Of Riches – “deceitfulness of riches,”
3. Weeds of Pleasure – “desires for other things,” – Literally “Desire concerning the remaining things.” 1 John 2:16

Mark 8:36

4. Verse 20 – Whole Hearted

James 1:21

1. We Must Hear It! – “they hear the word”
2. We Must Accept It! – “accept it”
3. We Must Apply It! – “bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

Application:

1. What Is My Response To The Word? Do I Hear And Give Attention To Understand? Or Do I Care Less About Hearing And Understanding God’s Word?
2. Failure To Hear And Understand God’s Message Will Keep One From Growing And Receiving Future Truth.
3. Am I Determined To Apply The Word In My Life? It’s Not How One Feels That Matters But How One Acts.
4. Is There Fruit In My Life? Fruit Is Determined By The Soil Of My Heart.
5. Which Heart Do I Have – Hard, Hollow, Half or Whole?