

The Gospel of Mark week 2
Sunday March 19th, 2023

Mark 1:1 (NLT, pg. 829) This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Who or what do you give _____ to in your life?

Mark 4:1-20 (NLT, pg. 832)

Mark 4:9 (NLT) Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Jesus points out that some people will only hear, and others will have a desire to _____ and understand.

Mark 4:13 (NLT) Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?

Jesus is _____ the disciples to listen and understand and apply His teaching.

Jesus presents four different outcomes of God’s word in our life:

The foot path: God’s word is snatched away and has _____. (4,15)

The shallow soil: quick growth and excitement; equally quick to _____. (5-6, 16-17)

The thorns: stifled growth that yields no _____. (7, 18-19)

The fertile soil: sustained growth that produces _____. (8, 20)

These represent possible stops along the _____, not a permanent condition of our heart.

Mark 7:1-23 (NLT, pg. 835-836)

Fertile soil will not stay fertile if we don’t continue to journey forward with God as our _____.

Mark 7:9,13 (NLT) Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition... And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others.”

_____...not religion.

Galatians 6:7 (NLT, pg. 975) Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.

The law of the harvest always applies unless we plant _____; then we get weeds.

Mark 7:14-15 (NLT) Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. “All of you listen,” he said, “and try to understand. It’s not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart.”

Final Thought: Jesus invites us into a journey that will transform us from the _____. What is the current condition of your heart?

Mark week 2 Discussion Questions

Why do you think Jesus uses parables so much in His teaching? Jesus says in Mark 4:9 “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.” What exactly do you think Jesus means by this statement? Review the parable Jesus teaches in Mark 4:1-20. What are your thoughts about the four heart conditions Jesus presents (foot path, rocky soil, the thorns, fertile soil)? “These represent possible stops along the journey, not a permanent condition of our heart.” Do you agree with this perspective? Why or why not?

“Jesus is training the disciples to listen and understand and apply His teaching.” After Jesus gives them this first lesson in parables in 4:1-20, He gives them a chance to apply what they have learned. Read the three parables that directly follow in chapter 4 (Mark 4:21-25, Mark 4:26-29, and Mark 4:30-34). What concept(s) does each parable teach? Now read Mark 4:35-41. This experience was a test for the disciples to see if they had learned anything from the parables. Did they pass the test? Why or why not? How can this encourage you in your faith journey?

Is there a holiday or religious tradition that has lost its meaning for you? Review Mark 7:1-23. Why do you think Jesus gets so upset with the Pharisees and religious leaders about their traditions? Read Mark 5:21-43. What stands out to you about these two healings? Jesus commends the woman and the religious leader for their faith. How is faith and authority connected? Explain. What is the biggest difference between these two passages?

Read Galatians 6:7-9. Describe how you see the law of the harvest playing out in our world today. “The law of the harvest always applies unless we plant nothing; if we plant nothing then we get weeds.” How does this concept play out in our daily faith journey? What are you planting in your heart? What are you getting as a result?