

MARK 4 ~ JESUS' PARABLES

Chapter 4

Summary: Jesus gives four parables (illustrations) describing kingdom growth until His return. The professing Christian Church begins small, but grows into a great “kingdom”, with believers and make-believers (1-20). Jesus demonstrates His authority by calming a storm.

I. The Parable Of The Sower (1-20)

Meaning: The gospel is received only by the heart with "good soil".

Illustrations:

The Wayside [These refuse to believe (Mt 23:13-36)].

Stony Ground [These like miracles, but not the message (Jn 6:66)].

Thorny Ground [These like riches more than Jesus (Mt 19:16-22)].

Good Ground [These follow Jesus regardless of the cost (Mt 19:27)].

II. The Parable Of The Lamp (21-25)

Meaning: The gospel should be heard, believed, lived, and shared.

III. The Parable Of The Growing Seed (26-29)

Meaning: God causes kingdom sowing, growing, and harvesting.

IV. The Parable Of The Mustard Seed (30-34)

Meaning: Christianity (believers & unbelievers) will grow rapidly.

V. Calming The Storm (35-41)

Lessons:

1. *Take control.* Jesus rebukes [orders] the elements and says "Peace, be still!" ["Be silent! Be muzzled and remain so!"]. (See also Mark 1:25).
2. *Fear God alone.* The disciples feared [*deiloi* cowardly fear] the storm, then "feared" [*phobeomai*, “have awe”] the Lord's deliverance.
3. *Have faith.* Jesus chides the disciples for their lack of faith.

Lesson: *In kingdom growth, in miracles, in everything, Jesus is Lord.*