

FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL HEARERS

Sunday, December 4, 2022 -- GOSPEL OF MARK series -- Msg 16 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

MARK 4:21-34

English Standard Version (ESV)

LAMP UNDER A BASKET OR ON A STAND

21 And He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? **22** For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. **23** If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." **24** And He said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. **25** For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

THE MYSTERY OF THE GROWTH & HARVEST

26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. **27** He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. **28** The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. **29** But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

THE MUSTARD SEED: TINY TO GREAT

30 And He said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? **31** It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **32** yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables He spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. **34** He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to His own disciples He explained everything.

REVIEW & CONTEXT

Mark 4:1–9 **Parable #1: *The Parable of the Sower*** – God's Word requires GOOD SOIL to bear FRUIT.
the Sower (the Lord Jesus and all who proclaim His message)
the Seed (God's truth -- the Gospel)
the 4 Soils (the pathway, rocky soil, thorny soil, good soil)

Mark 4:13–20 Explanation of Parable #1 -- Good soil -- those who receive by _____ and are fruitful.

Mark 4:21–23 **Parable #2: *The Lamp*** – God's kingdom is revealed through proclaiming Christ.

Mark 4:24–25 **Parable #3: *The Measure*** – God's kingdom spreads the more FAITHFUL we are.

Mark 4:26–29 **Parable #4: *The Growing Seed*** – God's kingdom grows in a MYSTERIOUS way over time.

Mark 4:30–32 **Parable #5: *The Mustard Seed*** – God's kingdom has _____ beginnings but grows big.

Mark 4:33–34 Summary of the Parables – Jesus used parables to reveal God's KINGDOM.

LET'S CLARIFY "THE KINGDOM OF GOD" or "THE KINGDOM" (God's domain or God's realm as Eternal King)

-- The _____ of creation (all the universe in all of time)

-- The _____ of God, the People of God, the Plan of God for eternity, God's redeemed creation

-- The _____ Kingdom or '1,000 year reign of Christ'

In the parable of the SOWER/FOUR SOILS the focus is on the 'good soil' that genuinely receives the Gospel and bears fruit. Pastor Ben asked "Are you bearing fruit?"

The following parables focus on the _____ and _____ hearers of the Gospel.

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#1 The _____ of Jesus Christ is the light/lamp. (who Jesus is, what He did -- His salvation)

- Isaiah 9:2 -- *The people who walked in darkness have seen **a great light**; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, **on them the light has shone.***
- John 1:9-13 ***The true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.*
- John 8:12 *Jesus spoke to them, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have **the light of life.**"*
- Matt. 5:14-16 ***"You are the light of the world.** A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

#2 Faithful, fruitful hearers understand that they are clearly _____ by Jesus to proclaim His good news. Not _____ it!

- vs 21 Notice how _____ it is NOT to share the Gospel. (Why would you block out a light??)
- vs 22 Notice that full _____ is coming... for everyone.
- for the lost and for the saved
 - for judgment and for reward

#3 Faithful, fruitful hearers realize the _____ of Christ's call to bear fruit.

- vs 3 *Listen!*
- vs 9 *He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*
- vs 23 *If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.*
- vs 24 *Pay attention to what you hear:*

#4 The degree of your faithfulness and effort will either _____ or expose the _____.

- vs 24 to the faithful/generous/diligent more will be given
- vs 25 the unfaithful/stingy/neglectful will lose what they had (exposed as false disciples)

This is a _____ in Jesus's teaching. You would do well to sober up to this.
See Matthew 25:29; Luke 8:16-18; Luke 12:41-48

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#5 Faithful, fruitful hearers _____ in the work of the harvest. vs 26

#6 Faithful, fruitful hearers _____ in the Lord of the harvest. vs 27

- They understand that God's sovereign work is often a _____.
- They wait _____ and _____.

As the farmer understands that he does not have the power to germinate _____, the faithful, fruitful hearer understands that he does not have the power to regenerate _____.

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#7 God's true kingdom of _____ and _____ through the Messiah has a very small, unimpressive beginning -- much like a tiny mustard seed.

- born into a small powerless nation
- born into a seemingly _____ situation
- born into abject poverty/humility
- _____ by all but a few
- _____ among criminals
- buried as a mere mortal

#8 Faithful, fruitful hearers _____ and _____ on the Kingdom of God knowing that it will fully come just as God has promised.

#9 Faithful, fruitful hearers get the _____ from God! vs 34

Jesus revealed and explained Himself to his first disciples and He _____.
He has revealed His ultimate kingdom _____.
He knows _____ and works with us accordingly.
He reveals _____ and His _____ more and more.

JOHN 14:21 -- Jesus speaking...

Whoever has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me.

The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him.