

Scandalous Grace  
Mark 4:1-41  
February 3, 2015

I. Parables by the Sea – Mark 4:1-34

A. There Were Many

1. However, this is only one of two sections of Mark where we hear \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus taught
  - a. Mark is far more concerned with what Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ than what he taught
2. Most important word in these verses: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It occurs \_\_\_\_\_ times
  - b. But “hearing” involves more than just hearing the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is saying

B. Parable of the Sower – Vv. 1-20

1. Another \_\_\_\_\_
2. Theme: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Those who truly \_\_\_\_\_ are insiders
  - b. Those who are merely there are \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ is in who is who

C. The Parable – Vv. 1-9

1. Jesus is in a \_\_\_\_\_, while the people are on the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The word for “shore” (*ge*) literally means “\_\_\_\_\_”
  - b. Therefore, we are to see these hearers as the “soil” (the recipients) of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the seeds) Jesus is sowing.
  - c. This is, therefore, a parable about Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Lots of \_\_\_\_\_ for this parable
  - a. But the emphasis is on the seed and the soil that \_\_\_\_\_ it
3. The sower sows with \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The farmer isn’t trying to \_\_\_\_\_ seed
    - i. He is wanting to \_\_\_\_\_ a harvest
4. The \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Often a metaphor for the coming of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in the O.T.

- b. Both the growth of the seed and the abundance of the harvest are \_\_\_\_\_ work
  - 5. This is also a parable about \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Discipleship is not making something of \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. But allowing God to \_\_\_\_\_ in and through us
    - c. In order to create a harvest of which we alone are \_\_\_\_\_
- D. The Explanation for Teaching in Parables – Vv. 10-12
  - 1. This section tells us \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus speaks in parables
    - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ to understanding the whole passage-vv. 1-20
  - 2. Inner circle
    - a. We are to picture those who are living in \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus
    - b. Insiders have been given the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom
    - c. They hear, believe and bear \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Secret/mystery = something that can only be known by \_\_\_\_\_ from God
    - a. That secret is that God has come in the person, words, and works of \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. God has chosen to reveal \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus
    - c. It is a mystery that will reveal things men cannot \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. But to those who \_\_\_\_\_ to hear, it is a bewildering \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Outsiders
    - a. To them, everything is said in \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Jesus is saying that parables are the only way to \_\_\_\_\_ to them
    - c. In Isaiah 6, the prophet is being called to preach to \_\_\_\_\_ people
    - d. “Insiders” and “outsiders” are not immutable \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Interpretation of the Parable – Vv. 13-20
  - 1. Parable of parables...why?
    - a. Two elements that form the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel
      - i. \_\_\_\_\_ – who Jesus is
      - ii. \_\_\_\_\_ – what it means to follow Him
  - 2. The farmer sows the \_\_\_\_\_
    - a. The message of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. \_\_\_\_\_ the word
    - a. The first person \_\_\_\_\_ even hears
    - b. The second hears but \_\_\_\_\_ steals it
    - c. The third hears but the pleasures of the \_\_\_\_\_ choke it out
    - d. The final person, one who truly hears, hears and \_\_\_\_\_

4. The key to understanding the passage: \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. It is in hearing and responding to Jesus that our \_\_\_\_\_, our eternity, and our \_\_\_\_\_ are determined

F. Applying the Parable

1. We, too, are called to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel
  - a. Without pre-determining who is deserving or how people might \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. We are not called to be successful but to be \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ our own soil

II. More Parables by the Sea – Vv. 21-34

A. The Parable of the Lamp – Vv. 21-23

1. The Lamp – “Does the \_\_\_\_\_ come...”
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ is the lamp of God who has come to bring light and revelation
2. Hiddenness
  - a. But for the present time, that reality is \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. But Jesus’ identity is hidden \_\_\_\_\_ to be found
  - c. It will become clearer \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus’ death and resurrection
  - d. The key is \_\_\_\_\_

B. The Parable of the Measure – Vv. 24-25

1. The point
  - a. Be careful \_\_\_\_\_ you listen
  - b. The extent to which you allow God’s word to \_\_\_\_\_ you, it will be to that extent that you understand and your \_\_\_\_\_ grows
  - c. To those who enter in, God will \_\_\_\_\_ more faith and understanding
  - d. To those who \_\_\_\_\_, they will become more confused
  - e. This is a grave warning to not turn a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ on the truth

C. The Parable of the Seed Cast on the Earth – Vv. 26-29

1. The farmer \_\_\_\_\_ the seed
  - a. But he \_\_\_\_\_ make it grow
2. God causes the seed to grow
3. It is invisible ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) underground
  - a. But what is hidden will become \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The seed will grow and bear \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Just as it does in \_\_\_\_\_ lives
4. When it is ripe, it is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Implies \_\_\_\_\_ in the O.T.
  - b. At that harvest, some will receive \_\_\_\_\_ and others will not

5. Apart from sowing the seed, the only human activity in this parable is \_\_\_\_\_ in faith
6. The kingdom of God is compared to a process of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. But it is a process “strangely independent of \_\_\_\_\_ activity”
7. God is in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. He is growing his \_\_\_\_\_

D. The Parable of the Mustard Seed – Vv. 30-32

1. The mustard seed
  - a. Even modern science can’t \_\_\_\_\_ it
2. God causes the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom
3. More importantly, what started in \_\_\_\_\_
4. Will \_\_\_\_\_ to become something of tremendous and eternal significance
5. Different birds \_\_\_\_\_ in the tree
  - a. Alludes to the God’s \_\_\_\_\_ toward all people
  - b. God’s Kingdom is not \_\_\_\_\_ for the Jews
6. Even today, God’s Kingdom remains \_\_\_\_\_ and not fully developed
  - a. But one day...Jesus will return in \_\_\_\_\_

E. Conclusion – Vv. 33-34

III. The Storm at Sea – Vv. 35-41

A. Difficulty Trusting

1. Even after the \_\_\_\_\_, after the parables, after being with Jesus for all those days, the \_\_\_\_\_ have difficulty trusting his providential care
  - a. We may chide them for that, but I find great \_\_\_\_\_ in it

B. Crossing the Sea of Galilee

1. Known for fierce, fast-rising \_\_\_\_\_
2. The fishermen are in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Ironically, they are \_\_\_\_\_ by the storm
3. Jesus is sleeping in heavenly \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. A picture of complete \_\_\_\_\_ in God
4. Attitude
  - a. Their verbal assault of Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jesus calms the storm with a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Just as God brought \_\_\_\_\_ out of chaos in Genesis
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ brings order out of chaos on the sea
  - c. The language used is that same as what would be used for an \_\_\_\_\_

6. We see an example of how Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ up the strong man
  - a. Jesus is doing \_\_\_\_\_ here with Satan
  - b. Satan is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus from getting to the other side of the lake
  - c. And guess who is going to win that battle with nothing more than a calm \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Again Jesus is doing what only \_\_\_\_\_ can do
7. Who is this guy?
  - a. Ironically, the disciples end up being even more terrified of \_\_\_\_\_ than they were of the storm!
  - b. They do not fully \_\_\_\_\_ who Jesus is yet
  - c. But the real threat to their faith at this point is not lack of knowledge, it is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. APPLICATION: Nothing to Fear

##### A. Our Doubt & Fear

1. Our \_\_\_\_\_ are not literal, but they are no less \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Our tendency to panic in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is no less real as well
2. “Despite the disciples’ fear and lack of faith, Jesus muzzles the storm and preserves their lives. What can he do when people show \_\_\_\_\_?” (Edwards)