

How People Respond to the Gospel (Mark 4:1-25)

Change Your World – Part 10
Life Church St. Louis – June 8, 2014
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Mark 4:21-23 (NIV) He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

Luke 14:23 (NIV2011) "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.'

1. Sow God's Word _____

Mark 4:3-8 (NIV) "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

2. _____ this important parable

Mark 4:13 (NIV) Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"

3. Be _____ for four responses

Mark 4:14 (NIV) The farmer sows the word.

3A. _____ hearts give no response

Mark 4:15 (NIV) Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

3B. _____ hearts fall away quickly

Mark 4:16-17 (NIV) Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

3C. _____ hearts bear no fruit

Mark 4:18-19 (NIV) Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Matthew 7:19 (NIV) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

3D. _____ hearts bear varying amounts of fruit

Mark 4:20 (NIV) Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

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Study Guide

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Intro. How are believers like lamps in this world?

In what ways are we tempted to hide our lamps (Mark 4:21-23)? How can we bring our lamps out into the open?

Why do you think that only 3% of churchgoers invite a friend to church every year?

How can we be more aggressive in our witnessing and compel people to come to Jesus Christ (Luke 14:17-23)?

1A. Why is it important to sow the seed of God's Word everywhere (Mark 4:3-8)?

1B. What is the sole factor in Jesus' parable that determines whether the seed produces a crop? Why is this important to understand?

1C. How can trying to figure out the condition of people's hearts before witnessing lead to little fruit?

2A. Why did Jesus say that understanding this parable was key to understanding other parables (Mark 4:13)?

2B. How can you meditate on this parable this week to better understand it and apply it to your life?

3A. What does it mean to sow the Word (Mark 4:14)?

3B. What causes hard hearts that do not respond to the Word (Mark 4:15)?

3C. What are shallow hearts that fall away quickly missing in their response to the Word (Mark 4:16-17)?

3D. How do the thorns in impure hearts choke out the life of God (Mark 4:18-19)? Why is it impossible for a believer to be fruitless (Matthew 7:19)?

3E. Why do good hearts produce varying amounts of fruit (Mark 4:20)?

3F. How can an understanding of the various responses to the Gospel encourage and help you be a better witness for Jesus?