

Mark: The Storyteller's Gospel (Mark 4)

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Series objective

Regardless of what stage we are at in life, whether we are in the first steps to wanting to know more about God or 30 plus years of walking with Christ, we all need to know Jesus. By God's design, the best way to do this is by studying the Bible. The book of Mark gives us a very real and personal look at Jesus, almost as if we were sitting down with Him. Many people believe that the writing of Mark was significantly influenced by Peter, the disciple with whom many of us identify the most (often speaking and acting before thinking!!). Peter also loved Jesus in a very real way.

This series is designed to help us take a personal look at Jesus in a way that makes us look in the mirror. I think most of us would admit that we would live very different lives if we lived every moment as if we were completely devoted to Christ and what He did for us.

Overview of Chapter 4

Verses 1-20	The parable of the sower
Verses 21-25	A lamp on a stand
Verses 26-29	The parable of the growing seed
Verses 30-34	The parable of the mustard seed
Verses 35-41	Jesus calms the storm

1. Use the table below to answer the following questions:
 - a. List the four seed types discussed in Mark 4:1-20.
 - b. Explain in modern terms what happens to each seed.
 - c. Which seeds are representative of saved people (i.e. born-again Christians)?

Seed Type	Explanation	Born Again Christian (YES or NO)

2. What is significant about Jesus' Old Testament quote in verse 12? How does this passage relate to us?

3. In verses 21-25 we read about the concept of the Lamp and the Concept of Measurement. I'll admit these verses can be confusing, but let's do our best to understand their meaning.
 - a. In verse 22 we read, *For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.* Considering that Jesus first mentions a lamp and the need for it to be shown, what could He be talking about? Think in terms of what might have been "concealed" at one point, but is now revealed.

 - b. Consider verses 24-25 copied below.

²⁴"Consider carefully what you hear," He continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. ²⁵Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

 - i. In the context of both "measure" and "Whoever has will be given more" to what could Jesus be referring?

 - ii. How does this concept impact you and how you live?

4. In verses 26 through 29 we read about the parable of the growing seed. As is often the case in Jesus' parables, there is often more to the story than meets the eye.
 - a. Assuming we are the "man" in the story, in what ways do we sow seeds?

 - b. What are the "returns on our investment" from a spiritual standpoint?

5. How can you apply Jesus' parable of the mustard seed in verses 30-34 to your own life?

6. In Verses 35-41 we read about Jesus calming the storm.
 - a. What does Jesus being asleep in the middle of the storm tell us about Him?

 - b. Jesus appears to "jump on" the apostles after observing their reaction after He calmed the storm. Why does He seem so irritated in verse 40 and what can we take away from this experience?

Our next study (April 17)

Read Mark 5. Consider the power that Jesus had (and has) over demons, illness, and even death?