

Mark 4:13—“And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”

NOTE: When a Christian only focuses on the ¹⁹ _____ blessings and benefits of Christianity they are “short-sighted”.

Fact #4: A Very Pointed ²⁰ _____ – *Mk. 4:14-20*

The Meaning of the Parable:

Only a small number of people who hear the call to Christianity will lead productive and ²¹ _____ Christian lives.

AND NOW...The Rest of the Story:

Three more Parables:

v. 21-25 – A Christian is a Lamp – A Christian’s Christianity will be ²² _____.

v. 26-29 – A Christian is a Seed – A Christian should be ²³ _____.

v. 30-34 – A Christian is a Tree – A Christian ²⁴ _____ for the care of others.

One Powerful Savior:

v. 35-41 – Jesus is All-Powerful; will you follow him ²⁵ _____ - _____?



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Answers: 1. Sermon 2. nothing 3. Question 4. two-fold 5. Answer 6. outside 7. 45 8. heavenly 9. Obscures 10. Uncovers 11. Judgment 12. Mercy 13. NOT 14. Matthew 15. hearts 16. appear 17. become 18. near-sighted 19. present 20. Message 21. beneficial 22. seen 23. growing 24. provides 25. whole-heartedly

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Why Jesus Spoke in Parables:
What Do They Mean?
Pastor Christian Newsome’s *Sermon*
Wednesday, August 5th, 2009
Message #6 in the series, “Your Miracle:
In the Mirror of Mark”

Bible Text : Mar k 4:1-41

“Four Intriguing Facts in Mark Chapter 4”

Fact #1: A Very Odd ¹ _____ – *Mk. 4:1-9*

Jesus’ sermon appeared to have ² _____ to do with spirituality, scripture, or Christianity.

Fact #2: A Very Good ³ _____ – *Mk. 4:10*

A well-rounded understanding of this parable shows us that this question is ⁴ _____-_____:

This specific parable is found in scripture 3 times:

Matthew 13:1-23

Mark 4:1-20

Luke 8:4-15

Matthew 13:10—“And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

The Disciples’ Questions:

Question 1: *Why do you speak in parables?*

Question 2: *What does this parable mean?*

Fact #3: A Very Enlightening ⁵ _____ – *Mk. 4:11-13*

Jesus made it clear that parables were for those ⁶ _____ the kingdom of God – v. 11

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What is a parable?

The word “parable” is used ⁷ _____ times in the Greek New Testament.

A parable is an “earthly story with a ⁸ _____ meaning”.

A Parable Does Two Things:

⁹ _____ truth from the uncaring.

¹⁰ _____ truth through extended dialogue for those who care deeply.

A Parable Signifies Two Things:

¹¹ _____ on the uncaring.

¹² _____ to all who care to look further into spiritual truth.

QUESTION: Did Jesus speak in parable to make sure people did ¹³ _____ come to faith?

Mark 4:12—“*Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.*”

Anytime in the synoptic gospels [Matthew/Mark/Luke] that the Old Testament scripture is quoted or referenced the reader should always check with the book of ¹⁴ _____ for simple clarity.

Matthew 13:13-17—“*This is why I speak to them in parables:*

“Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵*For this people's heart has become calloused;*

they hardly hear with their ears,

and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

¹⁶*But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”*

Jesus answer to why he spoke in parables is a quote of Isaiah 6:9-10.

Like Isaiah’s prophecies, Jesus’ parables were messages that would only break through to those with truly spiritual ¹⁵ _____.

Isaiah 6:9-13—“*And He said, “Go, and tell this people:*

‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’

¹⁰ *“Make the heart of this people dull,*

And their ears heavy,

And shut their eyes;

Lest they see with their eyes,

And hear with their ears,

And understand with their heart,

And return and be healed.”

¹¹ *Then I said, “Lord, how long?”*

And He answered:

“Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant,

The houses are without a man,

The land is utterly desolate,

¹² *The LORD has removed men far away,*

And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

¹³ *But yet a tenth will be in it,*

And will return and be for consuming,

As a terebinth tree or as an oak,

Whose stump remains when it is cut down.

So the holy seed shall be its stump.”

Those who only wanted to ¹⁶ _____ spiritual would not take the time to understand the parables.

HOWEVER: Those who wanted to ¹⁷ _____ spiritual would go the extra mile to understand the spiritual meanings within them.

v. 13 – **WARNING!!!** – Even true disciples get spiritually

¹⁸ _____ - _____ sometimes.