THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Mark 4:1-34 Lesson 6

Key Verse: 4:20

1. Why did crowds gather? (1-2, cf. 3:7-12) Why did Jesus teach from a boat? Why did he focus on teaching rather than healing? (2Ti3:14-17) Why parables? (12,33-34) What is the key difference between “those on the outside” and the disciples? (10-11)

2. How many times does Jesus mention the word “hear”? What does it mean to have “ears to hear”? In the parable, who is the farmer, and what does the seed represent? (3,14) What is a farmer’s purpose, and what does this mean in ministry? What does the soil represent?

3. What is a path like, what happens to seed sown there, and why? (4,14-15) What makes our mind/heart like a path?

4. What kind of mind/heart does the rocky place represent? (5,6,16,17) What may the rocks represent? What happens to the seed there? Why? What does the hot sun represent? What happens to a person who can’t allow God’s word to take root?

5. What happens to the seed sown in a thorny field? (7) What do thorns represent? (18-19) Why can’t a person with thorns hold onto the word of life? Read verse 20. What happens to seed on good soil? What characterizes one who is good soil? How can we be good soil?

6. What is the obvious thing to do with a lamp? (21-25) How is the word of life like a lamp? When will hidden things be exposed? In light of this, how should we live? What does it mean to “consider carefully what you hear”?

7. What is the “kingdom of God”? How is it like a growing seed? (26-29) What does the parable of the mustard seed teach about God’s kingdom? (30-34) What can we learn from these parables about listening to and accepting the word of God?