

Mark

Chapter 4

In the gospels of Matthew and Luke there are sermons on the mount and on the plain. Here in this chapter it is not described as a sermon but this is the major teaching segment of this gospel.

In verses 1-9 Jesus preaches from a boat to the people gathered at the seashore. He starts with the familiar parable of the sower. This starts out much like chapter 3 verse 7. But here we actually get a story that he told. What does this parable say to you? What do you think it said to the original listeners?

In verses 10-12 he explains to those around him including the disciples why he uses parables.

Think about it, in what ways have people helped you learn things? What is the best way for you to learn? Would parables work well on you?

In verses 13-20 Jesus explains the meaning of the parable of the sower. How does it speak to you? In your experience which of these descriptions describe you?

In verses 21-25 what does the parable of the lamp say to you? Does Jesus' description fit?

In verses 26-34 there are two short parables about growing seeds. How do they speak to you about the growth of God's kingdom? Where and when have you ever seen this kind of growth?

This section on the parables ends, like the beginning, with another description of how Jesus used parables.

The chapter ends with another miracle. His earlier ones were of healing people or casting out demons. This one is different and causes more amazement. Why do you think that is?

How might this miracle story be like a parable? What was Jesus trying to teach us here? What did Jesus actually say? Do you need to hear those words? Do you know others who need to hear those words repeated by you?

What miracles have you seen in your life? Who have you told about them?