

Introduction

Gospel – euangelion – good news

- * the message given by Jesus and
- * the message about Jesus

The Preparation for Jesus' Public Ministry 1:1-13 Jesus' Early Galilean Ministry (1:14 – 3:6)

Jesus' Later Galilean Ministry

1. Jesus' activity around the Sea of Galilee (3:7–12)
2. Jesus' appointment of the Twelve (3:13–19)
3. The Beelzebul accusation and Jesus' identity of His true family
4. Jesus' parables depicting the character of God's kingdom
4:1-34 – We will look at this passage this week and next.
5. Jesus' miracles demonstrating His sovereign power (4:35–5:43)
6. Conclusion: Jesus' rejection at Nazareth (6:1–6a)

Jesus' parables depicting the character of God's kingdom 4:1-20

Introduction

“Parable”

The Parable of the Sower

The Parable of the Sower Explained

Which soil best describes the last 10 years of your life?

1. I hear the Word and do nothing.
2. I hear the Word, get excited, but bail when things get tough.
3. I hear the Word, but the world is just too important to me.
4. I hear the Word, obey the Word, and bear fruit.

Jesus' parables depicting the character of God's kingdom (Continued) 4:21-34

1. Light Under a Basket and the Measure 4:21-25

a. The Lamp under a basket

1. Fact 1 – a lamp is not lit to be hidden.
2. Fact 2 – A lamp is designed to be placed on its stand where it would give light.
3. What was Jesus saying – My teaching may seem hidden right now, but eventually it will be communicated to the whole world.
4. The point – The disciples would eventually become sowers.

b. The Measure

2. The Parable of the Growing Seed 4:26-29

Overview

This parable is recorded only by Mark and complements the parable of the sower by explaining in more depth the results of spiritual growth accomplished in good soil.

The Big Idea – Sow the seed and trust God for the increase.

The Known

1. Sowing
2. Sleeping
3. Growing
4. Reaping

What should we know, and what should we do?

The Big Idea – Sow the seed and trust God for the increase.

How do we do that?

1. Faithfully sow the seed.
2. Don't micromanage the crop.
3. Trust God to work through His Word.

3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-32

What will this parable teach us? Those who respond to the gospel seem small and insignificant, but they are part of a spiritual kingdom which will ultimately fill the earth.

The Big Idea – We are part of something big and unstoppable.

Mustard Seed and Plant

Kingdom of Heaven

How does this parable apply to the church?

1. It started out very small.
2. It has steadily grown.
3. The church today is big.

The Big Idea – We are part of something big and unstoppable.

4. Jesus' Use of Parables 4:33-34

What have we learned, and what should we do?

1. There are four types of soil for the gospel.

What should each of us do?

2. We are sowers.

What should we do?

3. We are to sow the seed and trust God for the increase.

How do we do that?

1. Faithfully sow the seed.
2. Don't micromanage the crop.
3. Trust God to work through His Word.

4. We are part of something big and unstoppable.

What should we do?

~ Pastor Mark D. Montgomery