

Jesus and the Parable of the Sower

Text: Mark 4:1-20

Context - As Jesus' ministry continues to grow and experience resistance, He shares a parable about receptivity to the Gospel.

Main Idea - True disciples of Christ hear, respond to, and share the Gospel.

As Jesus teaches...

1. _____ to the parable of the sower (vs. 1-9)

- A. Jesus opens the parable with the word, "Listen" (vs. 3) and then closes it with, "Anyone who has ears to hear should listen." (vs. 9)
- B. Having ears to hear involves surrender of proud self-reliance and submission to God (cf. Isa. 6:10; 43:8; 44:18). (ESV Study Bible)

2. _____ the purpose of parables (vs. 10-11)

- A. It has been said that parables are "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning." Parables are simply stories that teach us about the kingdom of God.
- B. While believers will hear and obey the parables, unbelievers will never receive and apply them. (vs. 11)

3. _____ the Word of God produce fruit in you (vs. 12-20)

- A. Jesus himself gives a clear explanation of this parable. It is the true believer that will hear the word, welcome it, and bear fruit.
- B. Are you yielding to the fruit producing Word of God?