

Mark 4: Parables & the Kingdom of God

Good News: God's Kingdom has come near - Jesus is carrying forward the story from the Old Testament Scriptures about God's rescue operation for His world. Through Jesus, God is restoring His reign over the world by confronting and defeating evil as well as its hold on people's lives. Jesus then invites all to live under His reign by following Him as a disciple.

Jesus' message: "Repent, Believe, Trust, and Follow Him for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

Kingdom of God: The royal rule and reign of Jesus Christ in the heart of each individual. What else do we learn about the Kingdom of God in Romans 14:17?

Define Parable:

Please Read the Parable of the Sower, the Seed, and the Soils and Jesus' explanation (Mark 4:1–20). Answer the reflection questions below.

1. Who scattered the seed into your life that brought you to faith in Christ? How did it happen?
2. Which "soil" best describes your current spiritual state you encounter the Word of God? Why?
3. Are there any distractions, worries, or influences choking your spiritual growth? "*Cast your cares upon the Lord, for He cares for you.*" 1 Peter 5:7
4. Where do you see evidence of growth or fruit in your life? *Thank God for it!*
5. As you are praying for lost loved ones this week, ask God for specific prayers that address the type of soil in their hearts that prevents the Word from bearing fruit in their lives unto salvation. "*May His Kingdom come into their hearts and His will be done to the glory of God!*" For "*He wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Timothy 2:4) May God send Seed Scatterers their way!

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God has come near (Mark 1:15). He uses the next three parables in chapter 4 to begin teaching what His Kingdom is like. Please list your findings on this chart.

Passage	Title	Meaning
Mark 4:21-23	The Lamp on a Stand	
Mark 4:26-29	The Growing Seed	
Mark 4:30-32	The Mustard Seed	

Faith in the Storm (Mark 4:35–41)

6. What “storms” or uncertainties are you currently facing?

7. What does this story reveal to you about who God is?

8. What is one way you can turn your fear into faith?

Mark Highlight #4: Be good soil; Scatter seed; Shine His light; Trust God in the storm