

Triumphant Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Wisdom Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Maggie Burnes, Teacher, Page 1

MARK 4:1-41 (AMP)

Mark is believed to be the author, sometimes referred to as John Mark. Ministered with Peter and Paul. Estimated to have been written between 65 and 7 AD. During early Christian persecution. Some scholars believe that the book of Mark is actual the first book written in the Gospels and that Matthew and Luke used his book as guide to compose their books.

Mark ministered and served with Peter and Paul who were executed between 64-65 AD. Some scholars believe he was the cousin to Barnabas, early Christian Leader.

The culture during this time was chaos. Emperor Nero persecuted Christians in Rome and Vespasian, and his son Titus destroyed Jerusalem. Christianity separated from Judaism. Their was a Clash between Jewish and Roman power.

Judaism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions. Judaism believed in one God who revealed Himself to the patriarch Abraham, Moses and the Hebrew prophets. Jews believed they have a unique relationship with God and was a chosen nation. This is written in their Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew bible, which they believe was given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Christianity during that time sought to connect to God who was our born savior. Thru his death, burial and resurrection we are able to live eternally if we accept God into our lives, live according to his word.

This conflict and others paved the way for Jesus to spread his Gospel and illustrate his gifts from Genesis to Revelation. Thus, tonight we will continue with the book of Mark.

Mark is considered one of the three synoptic books of the New Testament. Synoptic is to show something briefly, compare and contract, and show parallels.

Mark, according to the author, Dr. David Jeremiah, the number of people joining the movement during Jesus's travels was steadily in increasing, but so were the persecutions of its members at the hands of the Roman authorities During fear, grief, hardship the book of Mark was written to provide hope to believers

everywhere, reminding them of what the Son of God had taught them while he was on earth and the power he exercised over creation itself. Jesus triumphed over the grave, and he would be with them during every storm.¹

Mark 4 introduces us to some of the ways Jesus impacted history during this time.

INTRODUCTION TO SEVERAL PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM

WHAT IS A PARABLE?

A parable is a story with a meaning

There are many parables in the New Testament section of the Bible

Jesus used parables to help teach people

¹ Dr. David Jeremiah, Jeremiah Bible Study Series: Mark, The Messiah in action. Harper Christian Resources. June 18, 2019.

Mark 4 in the New Testament contains a parable, or a short story with a visual illustration, found in the Gospels, or sometimes referred to as the Synoptic Gospels. It is derived from the Greek word *parabole*, meaning "beside." Jesus used these parables to show their connection to the Kingdom of God and to emphasize how our responses and actions are important in applying the lesson and obeying God.

As you study parables in the Bible, it is important to understand the message Jesus is trying to convey to disciples of Christ. We have read and heard these stories many times. What I have found by studying Mark 4 is the importance of self-evaluation, where I stand on these teachings, and how I tried to live up to the teachings related to Jesus overall kingdom.

Like some of us today, we hear lectures, but do we really hear and comprehend the message the speaker is trying to convey? During Jesus's travels, he spoke to many people and sometimes used parables. Some understood the message; some agreed with it but did not follow. While others were totally confused. Or as we say, sometimes it goes in one ear and out the other. Jesus was preparing the disciples and others about the Kingdom of God in various ways. They were struggling trying to understand who this man was, what was his purpose, and why is constantly preaching to them and his 12 disciples.

4 Again, Jesus began to teach beside the sea [of Galilee]. And a very large crowd gathered around Him, so He got into a boat [anchoring it a short distance out] on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. **2** And He taught them many things in parables, and in His teaching, He said to them, **3** "Listen! A Sower went out to sow *seed*; **4** and as he was sowing, some *seed* fell by the road, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Other *seed* fell on rocks where there was not much soil; and immediately a plant sprang up ^(a)because the soil had no depth. **6** And when the sun came up, the plant was scorched; and because it had no root, it dried up *and* withered away. **7** Other *seed* fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. **8** And other *seed* fell into good soil, and as the plants grew and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times [as much as had been sown]." **9** And He said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear *and* heed My words."

10 As soon as He was alone, those who were around Him, together with the twelve [disciples], *began* asking Him about [the interpretation of] the parables. **11** He said to

them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you [who have teachable hearts], but those who are outside [the unbelievers, the spiritually blind] get everything in parables, ¹² so that THEY WILL CONTINUALLY LOOK BUT NOT SEE, AND THEY WILL CONTINUALLY HER BUT NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT TURN [from their rejection of the truth] AND FORGIVEN."

After reading the parable, what comes to your mind? What are your thoughts concerning the parable? Each of us must think or consider these 4 things.

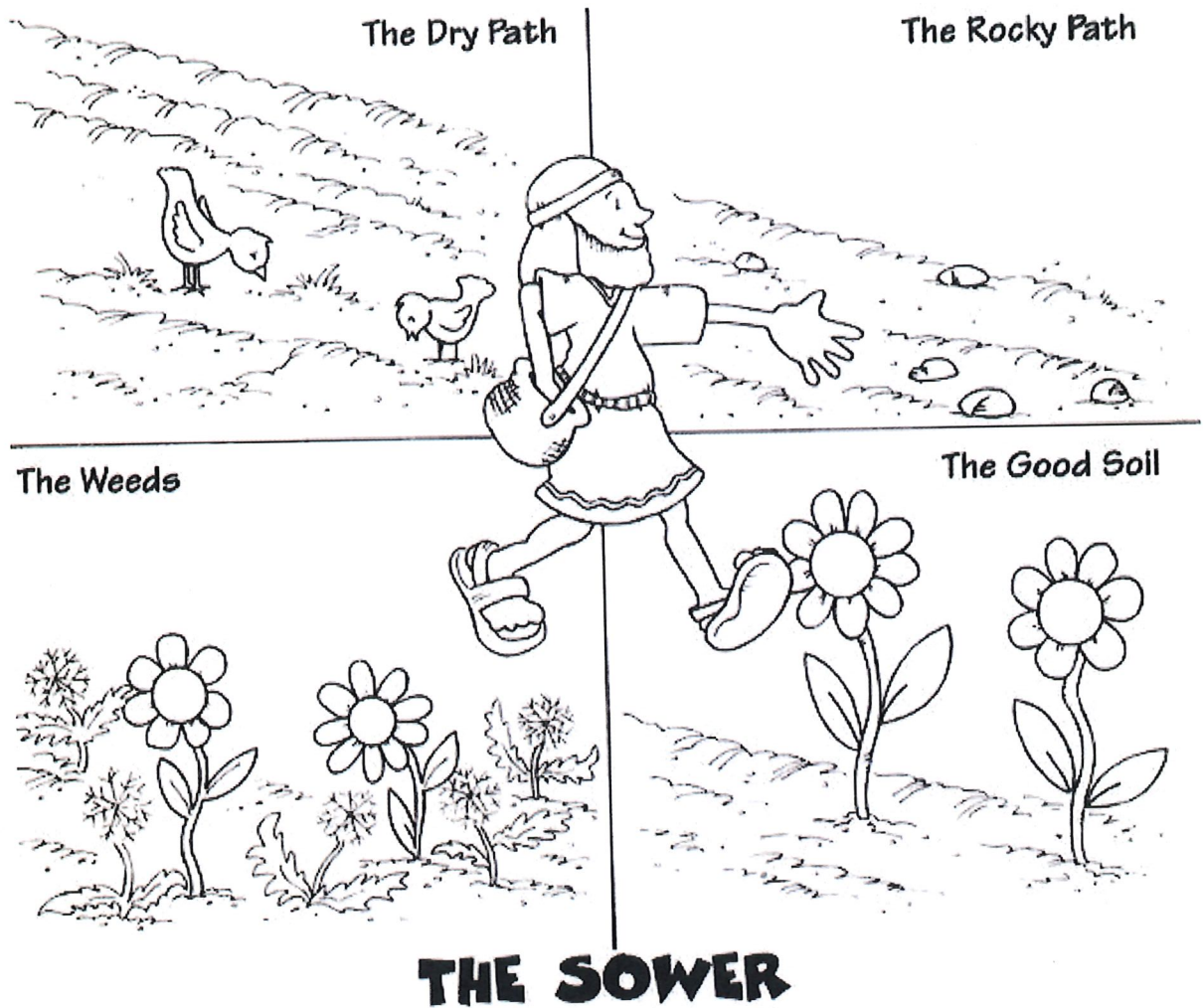
1. What is the truth found in this parable?
2. What is the purpose of this parable
3. Read it again, listen to it aloud, the way Jesus presented it to the crowd.
4. What did you actually hear? What resonates in your mind?
5. What is the main point of the parable? What oral impact did you receive?²

The Sower is Jesus. The Seed is the word of God

Four types of ground—This represents how some of us receive the word of God

1. Hard ground—wayside—prevents it from sprouting—Devil steals the word from us
2. Stony ground—does not take root, withers—received initially, but then dropped
3. Thorny ground—grows but then is choked by the thorns that overtake the plant—worries, disappointments of this world overtake us
4. Good ground—good soil, seeds take root, produce fruit—receptive heart

² Dr. David Jeremiah, Jeremiah Bible Study Series, Mark, The Messiah in Action. Harper Christian Resources.



Explanation

¹³ Then He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand *and* grasp the meaning of all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word [of God, the good news regarding the way of salvation]. ¹⁵ These [in the first group] are the ones along the road where the word is sown; but when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. ¹⁶ In a similar way these [in the second group] are the ones on whom seed was sown on rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy [but accept it only superficially]; ¹⁷ and they have no real root in themselves, so they endure only for a little while; then, when trouble or persecution comes because of the word, immediately they [are offended and displeased at being associated with Me and] stumble *and* fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are

the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹ but the worries *and* cares of the world [the distractions of this age with its worldly pleasures], and the deceitfulness [and the false security or glamour] of wealth [or fame], and the passionate desires for all the other things creep in and choke out the word, and it becomes unfruitful. ²⁰ And those [in the last group] are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word [of God, the good news regarding the way of salvation] and accept it and bear fruit—thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much [as was sown].”

PARABLE OF THE LAMP

²¹ He said to them, “A lamp is not brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed, is it? Is it not [brought in] to be put on the lampstand? ²² For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been kept secret, but that it would come to light [that is, things are hidden only temporarily, until the appropriate time comes for them to be known]. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear *and* heed My words.” ²⁴ Then He said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear. By your own standard of measurement [that is, to the extent that you study spiritual truth and apply godly wisdom] it will be measured to you [and you will be given even greater ability to respond]—and more will be given to you besides. ²⁵ For [Ⓜ]whoever has [a teachable heart], to him *more* [understanding] will be given; and whoever does not have [a yearning for truth], even what he has will be taken away from him.”

PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

This parable of the Mustard Seed is also shown or referenced in Matthew 13:3-8, Matthew 13:18-23, Luke 13: 18-19, Matthew 4, Matthew 4:13-20, Luke 8:5-8, Luke 8:11-15.

What is a mustard seed? What is the Kingdom?

A very tiny seed. Despite its small beginnings, it grows into a huge strong tree. The mustard seed represents faith, growth in the Kingdom of God.³

The Kingdom represents nearness to God and the future with God. Shown through a believer’s heart, love as his servant, made in his image, Christlike, reflects Jesus the King with the will of his Father for a loving, caring society of human beings.

³ GotQuestions.org. What is the Meaning of the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

²⁶ Then He said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who throws seed on the ground; ²⁷ and he goes to bed at night and gets up every day, and [in the meantime] the seed sprouts and grows; how [it does this], he does not know. ²⁸ The earth produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head [of grain], then the mature grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the crop ripens, he immediately puts in the sickle [to reap], because [the time for] the harvest has come."

³⁰ And He said, "How shall we ^{1c}picture the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use to illustrate *and* explain it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which, when it is sown on the ground, even though it is ^{1d}smaller than all the [other] seeds that are [sown] on the soil, ³² yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden herbs; and it puts out large branches, so that THE BIRDS OF THE SKY are able to MAKE NESTS *and* LIVE UNDER ITS SHADE."

³³ With many such parables, Jesus spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear *and* understand it; ³⁴ and He did not say *anything* to them without [using] a parable; He did, however, explain everything privately to His own disciples.

JESUS STILL OR CALMS THE SEA—ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH NO MATTER WHAT MAY COME OUR WAY

³⁵ On that [same] day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee]." ³⁶ So leaving the crowd, they took Him with them, just as He was, in the boat. And other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And a ^{1e}fierce windstorm began to blow, and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already being swamped. ³⁸ But Jesus was in the stern, asleep [with His head] on the [sailor's leather] cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are about to die?" ³⁹ And He got up and [sternly] rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still (muzzled)!" And the wind died down [as if it had grown weary], and there was [at once] a great calm [a perfect peacefulness]. ⁴⁰ Jesus said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith *and* confidence [in Me]?" ⁴¹ They were filled with great fear, and said to each other, "Who then is this that even the wind and the sea obey him."

REFERENCES

AMP BIBLE

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BibleGateway. <https://www.biblegateway.com>

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Got questions: What is the meaning of the Parable of the Sower?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-sower.html>

Sticque. BIBLE STUDY GUIDES: A Guide to deepen your faith and knowledge.