

Assignments on Mark 4

Please read Mark 4 and answer the following questions.

1. Explain the arrangements Jesus used to teach the people – 4:1,2. What teaching method did He emphasize?

2. **Define** parable.

3. What reason did Jesus give why He taught the people in parables – 4:10-12?

4. Study Matthew 13:10-17. What problems did some listeners have?

5. **Special Assignment:** Was Jesus' teaching designed to be understood by everybody? Do all people deserve to have the Scriptures explained as clearly as possible? Think carefully in light of Jesus' teaching and explain your answer. What can we learn about our teaching today?

6. In the parable of the sower, what is represented by the seed and by spreading the seed on different kinds of soil?

7. What is represented by the wayside soil – 4:13-15?

8. **Application:** List some reasons why many people do not understand God's word. When people misunderstand, does the problem lie with the word of God? Explain.

9. What is represented by the rocky soil – 4:16,17?

10. Is it possible for a child of God to so sin as to be lost? List other passages and explain.

11. **Application:** What reasons are given that may cause people who are like rocky soil to fall away? Explain how each of these problems may cause people to stumble.

12. What is represented by the thorny soil – 4:18,19?

13. **Application:** List the problems that can cause people who are like thorny soil to become unfruitful. Explain how each one can become a problem for a Christian.

14. What characterizes those who are good ground – 4:20?

15. Explain each of the characteristics that one must have to be good ground.

16. What is meant by thirty fold, sixty, and a hundred? What justifiable reasons may there be why some people produce more fruit for the Lord than others?

17. What should and should not be done with a lamp – 4:21? What does light usually represent in Scripture?

18. Explain the illustration of the lampstand.

19. What will happen to that which has been hidden and kept secret – 4:22? Explain how this may happen.

20. Explain the illustration of measuring – 4:24. What application does this have to hearing the gospel?

21. In what sense is it true that more is given to one who already possesses, but when one lacks he loses even what he has – 4:25? What application would this have to hearing the gospel?

22. Describe the parable of the growth of the seed – 4:26-29. In what sense is this true of physical farming?

23. What application would this have to teaching the gospel?

24. Describe the parable of the mustard seed – 4:30-32. What characterizes the growth of the mustard seed?

25. How does this illustration apply to the kingdom of God?

26. What method did Jesus continue emphasizing in teaching the people at this time – 4:33,34? How did He make sure the disciples understood?

27. What problem did the disciples have as they were crossing the sea – 4:35-37?

28. What was Jesus doing – 4:38? What concern did the disciples express to Him?

29. What did Jesus do to solve the problem – 4:39? What did this prove about Jesus?

30. What did Jesus ask the disciples – 4:40? Explain how they had shown lack of faith.

31. List some characteristics of true Bible miracles that we can observe in this event.

32. How did the disciples react to this miracle – 4:41? How does their reaction demonstrate the purpose of miracles?