

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 17, 2015

Passage: Mark 4:1-34

Memory Passage: Mark 4:20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 4:1-34.** What title would you give to this parable (The Parable of the Sower? Soils? Seed? Etc.) and why?

(b) What recurring words or phrases do you find, and how does this repetition inform your understanding of the parable?

(c) Establish the context of these verses: How does 4:1-20 connect with 3:20-35 (what precedes) and 4:26-34 (what follows)?

(d) What would you say is the main point of this parable?

(e) Write down any questions that you have about 4:1-34. If you don't answer them through your study this week, be prepared to ask them of your class on Sunday morning.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Is. 6:1-10 & Mark 4:1-34.** What is the difference between those on the “outside” and those on the inside (“around him”) in (1) their response to Jesus’ parable, (2) what they have been “given,” and (3) what exactly they hear?

(b) Explain what is going on in Isaiah 6:1-10, giving special attention to what is being taught in vs. 9-10.

(c) Explain the differences you see between the original text of Is. 6:9-10 and the way Jesus (infallibly) quotes it in Mark 4?

(d) What is the “secret of the kingdom” and who has granted the ability to know and understand it?

(e) How is understanding this parable the key to understanding all parables (v. 13)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 4:1-34.** FYI: In Jesus’ time a farmer would scatter the seed on the ground first and then plow it under.

(b) How is Satan able to take away the word after it is heard? Describe how you have seen this happen.

(c) Is the person represented by the “path” a lost person or saved person? How do you know?

(d) What should be our response when we sow the word in someone who is so far revealed to be a “path” soil?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 4:1-34.** Explain the difference between the “rocky ground” and the “path” that allows for a joyful hearing. What does it mean for someone to “receive (the word) with joy?”

(b) Explain this phrase: “they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while” (v. 17). How would you differentiate between one who “endures for a while” and one who “endures to the end?”

(c) Give concrete examples of “tribulation or persecution arising on account of the word.”

(d) Since this person “falls away,” which of these summaries is correct and why: (1) this person was never saved. (2) This person was saved when they received the word but then lost their salvation.

(3) This person was saved and remained saved.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Mark 4:1-34.** Give several examples of each of the three “word chokers” (v. 19) and explain how they “prove” the word to be unfruitful.

(b) Is the person represented by the “thorns” (1) saved, (2) saved and then lost, or (3) lost? Explain your answer.

(c) Explain how the “good soil” receives the word compared to the other three soils, and describe the “fruit” of this reception.

(d) What applications can you derive from this parable with regard to (1) evangelism, (2) church membership, (3) your life?

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Listen! The Parable of the Soils