

October 23/24, 2004

Study Questions

The Good News About Jesus According to Mark

Listen Well

Mark 4:1-34

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Some people clearly trust Christ and experience significant growth in their Christian walk, while others seem to always struggle and never advance beyond infancy. Why is this?
2. If you were to identify three essential keys to growing as a Christian, what would those keys be and why?

Bible Study

1. Review the four groups of responders to Jesus from last week's lesson in Mark 3:7-35.
2. Read Mark 4:1-20. How do the four soils line up with those four groups from Mark 3? Describe each of the four soils in your own words.
3. In Mark 4:10-12, 21-25 Jesus clearly states that His desire is to unveil His truth to those who want to receive it. Compare with Hebrews 11:6 and Psalm 1.
4. How does Mark 4:25 help interpret 4:11,12? Is Jesus being unfair? Why or why not? Compare with I Timothy 2:3-7 (see verse 4).
5. Compare Mark 4:26-32 with I Corinthians 3:1-9. What do we learn from this in terms of our responsibility as stewards of the truth?

Do we sometimes create anxiety for ourselves when we seek to convince people of the truth rather than simply being the sower of the truth?

6. Is the Church (kingdom of God) winning or losing the battle according to Jesus? Compare with Matthew 16:18.

Does the Church have to be a big, powerful force in the culture to be accomplishing her mission? What is the responsibility of the Church and what can only God do?

Application

1. How would you rate your soil these days? What are the issues in Jesus' parable of the soils that you struggle with that prevents good growth of the seed?

What are three practical things you can do to cultivate better soil in your life to receive God's truth?

2. What practical counsel does this text in Mark give you to help you be more effective as a sower of God's seed? How does this text take some of the pressure off you when sowing the seed?

3. What practical things can your LifeGroup do together to continue to cultivate good soil for receiving God's truth?