



# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

## Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 12

“The Parables of the Messiah” 2 of 2

5-2-21

- The Lord Jesus openly proclaimed the coming of the Messianic kingdom throughout the first part of His ministry. A transition occurred, however, after the religious leaders accused Him of satanic activity and He then began to teach in parables concerning the new phase of the kingdom program.

“Following the rejection of Christ’s offer of Himself as Messiah...[He] revealed a new form in which the theocratic kingdom would be administered in the age falling between Israel’s rejection of Christ as Messiah, the Son of God, and the nations future acceptance of Him as Messiah at His second advent. Christ revealed the essential features of the new form of the kingdom in the parables in which He taught...”

—Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come*

1. A period of time would intervene before the kingdom would be literally established on earth.
2. During the interim, it would exist in spiritual form. All who acknowledge Christ as King would be ‘in the kingdom,’ even though the King Himself was absent.
3. The Word of God would be sown during the interim period with varying degrees of success. Some would actually be converted, but others would only appear to believe. All professing Christians would be in the kingdom in its outward form, but only those of genuine faith would enter the kingdom in its inner reality. (William MacDonald, *Believers Bible Commentary*)

**Key Point:** Jesus’ teachings concerning the kingdom of God were, like His true identity, veiled to those who did not \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (‘outsiders’) yet further revealed to those who had faith in Him (‘insiders’).

### The Lord’s Teaching in Parables

#### **The Parables of the Senses—Mark 4:21-25**

- Jesus used imagery of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to express in parable form what He had disclosed to those around closest to Him.

Mark 4:21-23—<sup>21</sup> And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? <sup>22</sup> For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. <sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⇒ Jesus seems to have used the imagery of a lamp on numerous occasions (Matt. 5:14-16; John 8:12). Here, it is employed to show that although His teaching is veiled for a time, the ultimate goal is that it would be made known.

Mark 4:24-25—<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. <sup>25</sup> For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

⇒ The parable of the measure conveys that those who hear the truth are responsible for how they receive and respond to it and further blessing or judgment would follow based on their response.

#### **The Parables of the Seeds—Mark 4:26-34**

- Jesus then told a parable about the \_\_\_\_\_ of seed after it had been scattered.

Mark 4:26-29—<sup>26</sup> And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

⇒ The parable concerns the new form of the kingdom program. The Word will be sown throughout the world, but its success will not depend on the one who sows, but instead upon the power of the Word itself. **OT Connection:** Joel 3:13

- Jesus also told a parable about a \_\_\_\_\_ seed and the size of the tree into which it grew.

Mark 4:30-32—<sup>30</sup> And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

⇒ The disparity between the size of a mustard seed and the tree that comes from it illustrated that although the manifestation of the new form of the kingdom would have humble beginnings, it would eventually spread throughout the world.

**OT Connection:** Dan. 4:12

**Key Point:** Because of their \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, Jesus explained the parables to His followers, revealing truths to them concerning the kingdom of God program.

## The Calming of the Storm—Mark 4:35-41

- After the long day of teaching, the Lord requested that they cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and a strong storm arose during their journey.

Mark 4:35-36—<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

⇒ It was Jesus’ followers who accompanied Him across the sea and who would witness the series of miraculous works that He would accomplish in that region.

Mark 4:37-39—<sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup> And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

### Observations

1. There is a contrast between how Jesus and the disciples respond to the storm.
2. There is a contrast between the weather conditions before and after Jesus’ intervention.

- Jesus then questioned His followers regarding their \_\_\_\_\_ to what had just occurred as the questioned His true identity among themselves

Mark 4:40-41—<sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

### Observations

1. His questioning them revealed that they had failed to note that His reaction to the storm was \_\_\_\_\_.

Psa. 3:3-6—<sup>3</sup> But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. <sup>4</sup> I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah <sup>5</sup> I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. <sup>6</sup> I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

2. Their questioning among themselves revealed that they had not fully understood His identity as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Psa. 107:28-31—<sup>28</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. <sup>29</sup> He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. <sup>30</sup> Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup> Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

**Key Point:** Because they were \_\_\_\_\_ Him, His followers were given glimpses of His true identity as the Son of God through the miracles that they witnessed.

## Concluding Thoughts

1. We can \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Lord Jesus as the one who gives teaching and insight into God’s Word even when we lack understanding.

1 Pet. 3:15-18—<sup>15</sup> And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup> as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup> You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup> But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2. We can \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord Jesus is with us even when the circumstances of our life seem dire.

2 Tim. 4:16-18—<sup>16</sup> At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! <sup>17</sup> But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. <sup>18</sup> The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.