

**The SAME Jesus:
The Gospel of Mark**
Jesus Teaches Through Stories
Mark 4:1-34

Willerup UMC
Aug 8, 2021
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Resource Page

Parables

Jesus taught in parables—also known as ‘windows to the soul’—as an exemplary way to communicate to any age group during any time period. Parable teaching methods allow the listener to discern the answer, revealing more about the student than about the teacher.

A parable may seem simple on the surface. A parable releases a new or hidden meaning according to our humility, maturity, situation, or circumstances.

We may think we know the meaning of the parable. We may think we’ve heard it before. We may think we already understand its application in our lives.

The parable is a seed that is planted in the dirt. The harvest will reveal what type of seed was actually planted and the fruit it produced.

Forty-six parables are included in the Gospels. Each is a revelation about the Kingdom of God.

Focus on Mark 4:26-29

This is a familiar parable.

1. Farmer scatters (plants) he does the work – Surface level.
2. Night and day—regardless of what the farmer does—whether he is a good farmer or not—he has no influence nor impact on what is produced.

3. The scattered seed sprouts and grows—*though he does not know how. (4:27)*

4. The dirt produces grain—On a deeper level that we cannot see, under the surface, something extraordinary is happening.

DIRT = Disappointments, Insecurity, Rejection, Temptations—this is the greatest soil where the seeds of faith and the Kingdom of God are planted.

5. We have no control over the conditions after we plant—weather, storms, insects, virus, disease.

6. We don't have to know *how*...when we know *who*.

This is a Kingdom of God parable.

1. Be sure we don't make every teaching about ourselves. Just about the time we think we know it all...we are in peril...we don't know *how*. (4:27)

2. All by itself (The Kingdom) is produced. Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you . . .”

3. This parable is a foreshadowing of Jesus being planted in the tomb, then raised—we don't know how! Evidence of the Kingdom of God at work.