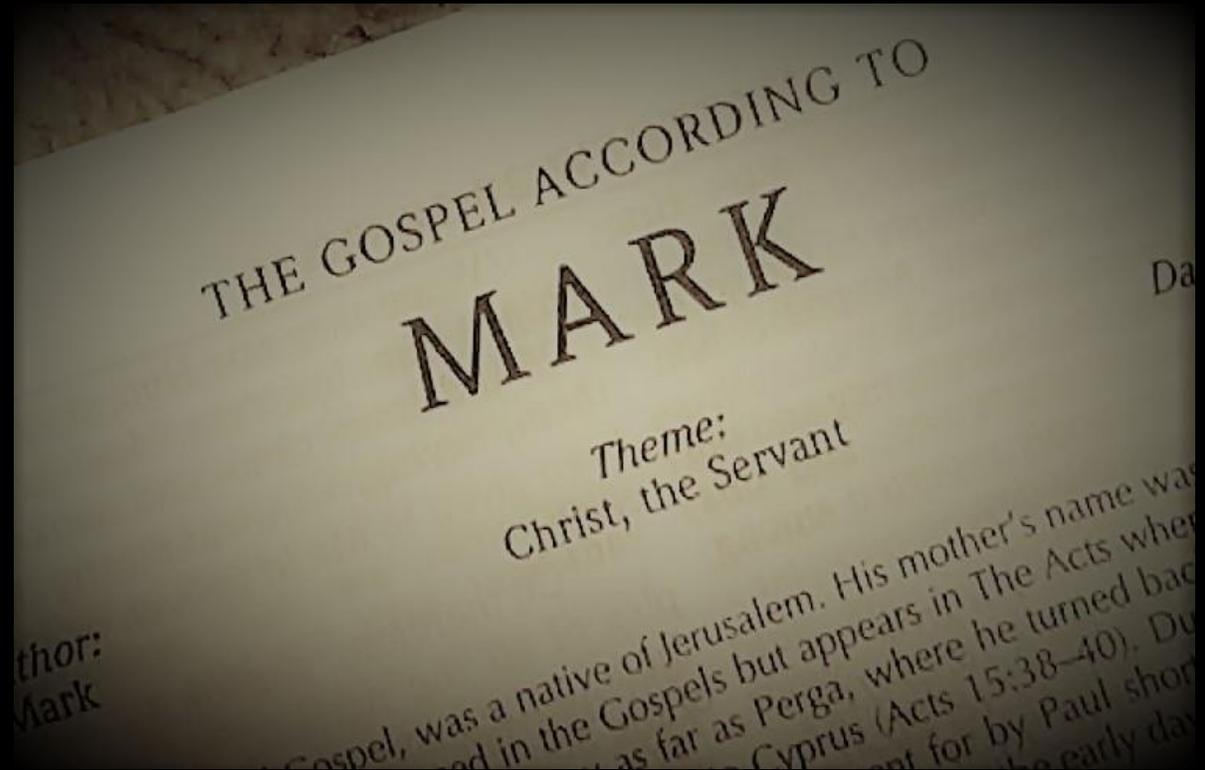


# Verse by Verse

## Mark 04



# Mark 4 Introduction

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- Large crowds were beginning to gather around Jesus.
- They were eager to hear his teaching and many wanted some kind of healing from him.
- At the same time, others began to oppose him.
- Perhaps precisely because of the crowds, the religious leaders criticized his ministry.

# Mark 4    Key Verse

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- Mark 4:20 (ESV)

But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

# Mark 4 Outline

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1. The Parable of the Sower 4:1-9
2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20
3. A Lamp under a Basket 4:21-25
4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29
5. The Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-34
6. Jesus Calms a Storm 4:35-41

# 1. The Parable of the Sower 4:1-9

# 1. The Parable of the Sower 4:1-9

- We don't have to say much about this parable here because, in a minute, Jesus will explain it.
- It sheds light on the varied responses to Christ – the big crowds, the hateful opposition and so on.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- If we look back on v.9, we might say that it is possible for people to hear without hearing.
- In other words, we can hear the words without taking the content of what Jesus says to heart.
- We don't respond properly.
- We can be hearers but not doers, as James says.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:12 In the same way, we can see, but not perceive in such a way as to respond properly to Jesus.
- The words make sense, but they don't move us.
- We can hear but not understand that our eternity rests upon our response to Jesus Christ.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:13 How then will you understand all the parables?
- In some ways this is the key parable of Jesus.
- If we can understand this one, there will be clues to understanding many others.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:15 Satan immediately comes and takes away the word
- Some people are completely indifferent to the gospel.
- They could not care less what Jesus has to say.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:16-17 when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word
- Some people respond with a very shallow faith.
- At first they can appear to be the most excited about Christ.
- But there is no depth to their commitment.
- When trouble comes and following Jesus gets hard, they fall away and go back into the world.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:18-19 the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- These people do not make the gospel their top priority.
- They live their lives as if their faith is a second or third tier issue, rather than the most important thing of all.
- This person probably attends a church, but you might not know it from their work or relationships – from daily life.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- 4:20 those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit
- This final group is the real deal.
- They stand the test of time.
- Their lives give plentiful, long-term evidence of their faith.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

- Other than this last group, it is hard to say whether the faith of the rest is saving faith or not.
- They are a lot like Agrippa who asked Paul ([Acts 26:28](#)),  
“In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”
- So close and yet so far.

## 2. The Sower Explained 4:10-20

*Almost persuaded to be a Christian is like the man who was almost pardoned, but he was hanged; like the man who was almost rescued, but he was burned in the house. A man that is almost saved is damned.<sup>1</sup>*

*– Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)*



### 3. A Lamp Under a Basket 4:21-25

### 3. A Lamp Under a Basket 4:21-25



*God's intention is for us to live ... demonstrating to the world the superiority of the spiritual life over the material life. If we are like the world, they won't see the contrast, and our lights will be hidden. <sup>2</sup>*

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927-2013)  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

### 3. A Lamp Under a Basket 4:21-25

- In other words, our faith is not a private matter.
- In the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5:14-16](#)) Jesus said,  
<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### 3. A Lamp Under a Basket 4:21-25

- 4:25 For to the one who has, more will be given ...
- The one who receives the word of God and holds on to it, allowing it to impact his or her life, will receive more.
- This person will continue to grow.
- The one who does not respond to God's word now is in danger of losing all ability to respond over time.

## 4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29

## 4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29

- 4:28 the earth produces “by itself” [*automatos*]
- Jesus adds a point to that first parable.
- Fruit can take time and we can't always see the growth.

## 4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29

### Personal Experience:

- I have had the privilege of delivering sermons, leading Bible studies and teaching classes for over 20 years in Indianapolis.
- That must now number in the thousands of separate instances of “sowing.”
- But during all these moments there are almost never immediate or obvious results.

## 4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29

### Personal Experience:

- Over time, however, as I get to observe your lives, I am convinced that God has done a work while I have slept.
- Or *not* slept much of the time! (But that's me.)
- This is where I differ from the farmer in the parable.

## 4. The Other Parable of the Sower 4:26-29

- Isaiah 55:10-11 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

## 5. The Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-34

## 5. The Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-34

- Here is another parable that deals with long-term growth.
- There are a couple of different types of **mustard** (more like bushes) that grow in Israel.
- They are slow-growing, which might be part of Christ's point.

## 5. The Parable of the Mustard Seed 4:30-34

- 4:32 birds of the air If we compare 4:4 with 4:15, we can take this to have a negative connotation.
- It is similar to the wheat and the weeds or the great catch of fish in Matthew 13.
- The growth is slow and steady, but eventually the church is very big and contains bad elements as well as good ones.

## 6. Jesus Calms a Storm 4:35-41

## 6. Jesus Calms a Storm 4:35-41

- The **Sea of Galilee** is in a basin about 700' below sea level.
- The air in the basin can get warm.
- When cool air blows over it at night, a storm can kick up pretty quickly.

(photo from Trip.com <sup>3</sup>)



## 6. Jesus Calms a Storm 4:35-41

- 4:35 Jesus planned to complete the trip.
- 4:38 The disciples lost all their experienced fisherman macho attitude and are asking a carpenter (!?) for help.
- 4:41 This is the real question.
- Too bad they didn't have **Mark 1:1**.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

# Mark 4    What We Just Read

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# Mark 4    Key Verse

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# Mark 4    Key Points

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- As the word of God goes out, the results are not identical in every person who hears the message.
- The difference is in the condition of the hearers.
- Even when fruit is produced, this does not happen quickly.
- Given enough time the results will be dramatic, so much so that false believers will occupy positions in the church.
- Nonetheless, we need to “let our light shine” because that is what God intends for us.

# Mark 4    A Prayer

# Mark 4    A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- We confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is worthy of our worship and worthy of our most complete loyalty and commitment.
- We pray that you would fill us with the confidence we need to be open about our faith.
- We pray also for patience and perseverance in the task of sowing the word.

# Mark 4    A Prayer

- We pray that over time our lives would bear fruit as you intend. Let us be that good soil in which your word produces fruit, thirty, sixty and one hundredfold what we are given.
- We look to you as the one who can make that happen in our lives, and we know full well it is not something that we can accomplish in and of ourselves.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

## Mark 4    References

1. Galli, Mark (2000), *131 Christians Everyone Should Know* (Holman Reference), B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition, 103.
2. Chuck Smith (2005), *The Word for Today Bible*, Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 1287.
3. Sea of Galilee photo, <https://www.trip.com/travel-guide/tiberias/sea-of-galilee-96285/>