

## The Parable of the Sower Mark 4

2 Then He taught them many things by parables and said to them in His teaching:

3 “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the **wayside;** **(the road)** and the **birds** of the air came and devoured it.

5 Some fell on **stony ground**, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

7 And some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded **no** crop.

8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

9 And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.

11 And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside/without, all things come in parables,

12 so that ‘Seeing they may see and not perceive,  
And hearing they may hear and not understand;

Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.’ ”

Isaiah 6:9

And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ ”

Mark 4 (cont.)

13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

14 The sower sows the word.

15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, **Satan** comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

In the parable Jesus uses the metaphor of birds. The bible is usually consistent in it's symbolism. In verse 15 the birds are satan, and in Luke the birds are the devil. rev. 19 references the birds eating the flesh of kings.

*16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;*

*17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation/affliction or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.*

Stumble = Skandalizo - set a snare ("stumbling-block"); (figuratively) "to hinder right conduct or thought; to cause to stumble"

18 Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

19 and the **cares** (worry, anxiety ) of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

*20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept/receive it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."*

To hear means to comprehend, to understand

To bear fruit means people who show their knowledge of Christ by their conduct. Your conduct is your testimony.

*21 Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?"*

*22 For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.*

*23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

As if he had said, I explain these things to you, I give you this light, not to conceal, but to impart it to others. And if I conceal anything from you now, it is only that it may be more effectually manifested hereafter.

*24 Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given.*

Take heed what ye hear — That is, attend to what you hear, that it may have its due influence upon you. The more liberally that we share such gifts as God has given us with our brethren, the more bountiful God will be toward us.

*Romans 12:3*

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

*Mark 4 (cont)*

*25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be **taken away** from him.”*

This is not talking about physical possessions. It's about stewardship of the word of truth.

We must be attentive to what the Holy Spirit is saying through the scriptures.

**Taken away** - He that neglects them and is inattentive shall become more ignorant; the few things which he had learned he will forget, and his trifling knowledge will be diminished.

**Stewardship** refers to the act of managing someone else's property that they have entrusted to your care for a time.

There are at least two key components that must be present for one to be considered a steward.

**Authority.** A steward is always under the authority of the owner who determines how the steward takes care of the property.

**Responsibility.** The steward has the moral obligation to manage the owner's assets or personnel according to the desires of the owner and not their own. A steward is given authority over any people or assets necessary to help them accomplish their tasks.

The parable of the ten talents Matthew 25:14-30

*Mark 4 (cont)*

*26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,*

*27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.*

*28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.*

*29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."*

**Romans 8:31-39**

*31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

*32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*

*33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

*34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

*35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*36 As it is written:*

*“For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

*37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him  
who loved us.*

*38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor  
principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,  
39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to  
separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*