



Mark 4



One day Jesus began to teach standing beside a lake. A very great crowd gathered around Him and pressed toward Him so much that He had to get into a boat and go out a little way from the shore so all the people could see and hear Him.

The Bible says He taught the people many things by using parables. A parable is using every day examples that the people would understand in order to teach an important truth that they needed to know about Him, and their salvation.

SCRIPTURE
(MARK 4:3,4)

In His teaching, He said, “*Give attention to this. Behold (see) a sower went out to sow and as he was sowing (throwing the seed out from his bag over his shoulder on to the ground where he wanted it to grow) some of the seed fell out unto the path by the wayside, (instead of on ground that was plowed and ready) and the birds came quickly and ate up the seeds that fell on the path.*”



PARABLE
EXPLANATION
OF THE VERSES
WE JUST READ

In this parable, the sower is someone who sows the Word of God into the hearts of people. The Word that fell on the wayside fell on hearts that were not ready to receive the Word. Their hearts were not plowed and ready to receive. The ground always has to be made ready by the owner. These would be those who were curious about God but did not receive and take into their heart the Word that was spoken, so Satan comes immediately and snatches away the Word from their hearts.

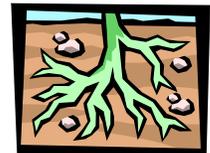


SCRIPTURE
(MARK 4:5,6)

“*And some of the seed from the sower fell on ground that was full of rocks, where there wasn’t much soil. It started to grow right away because the soil was not deep, and there were no roots because it was shallow; and when the sun came up, the seed was scorched, and because it had not taken root, it withered away.*”

PARABLE
EXPLANATION
OF VERSES WE
JUST READ

In the same way, the ones sown on stony ground are those who, when they hear the Word, at once receive it and accept it with joy; but they have no real root in themselves, and so they endure for a little while, then when trouble comes, or pressure or persecution arises because of the Word, they immediately are offended – displeased, indignant, resentful; and they stumble and fall away. Hard places can be found also, when the Word requires us to forgive, to release emotional hurts, and to lay all of our guilt from the past at the foot of the cross of Jesus. All of these things may be hard to do and they prevent the Word from taking root in our heart, even though we received it gladly when we first heard it.



(Cont'd)

SCRIPTURE
(MARK 4:7)

“Other seed fell among thorn-plants, and the thorns grew and pressed together and completely choked and suffocated it.”

PARABLE
EXPLANATION
OF VERSE WE
JUST READ

The ones sown among thorns are those who hear the Word, then the cares and anxieties of this world, and the distractions of everyday living, and the seeking after riches, and the seeking after pleasure and the desire to give attention to other things like seeking a boyfriend or a mate, or seeking



some form of substance abuse to ease our pain, these things choke the Word of God in our hearts and makes it unfruitful and of no benefit to us. Like a fruit tree that never bears fruit.

SCRIPTURE
(MARK 4:8)

THIS IS OUR MARK 4 PROGRAM SCRIPTURE! HALLELUJAH! *“And the other seed fell into good soil that was ready to receive it, and brought forth fruit, growing up and increasing, up to thirty times as much (thirtyfold), and sixty times as much (sixtyfold), and even a hundred times as much (hundredfold) as had been sown.*

PARABLE
EXPLANATION
OF VERSE WE
JUST READ

Tending and giving attention to the Word once it is sown in your heart will determine how much fruit the Word will produce in you.

Sometimes ground has been mis-used by those who planted in it, and it will require more nutrients and more watering to make it bring forth fruit in your life. The climate and weather



conditions around the good ground (your heart) can also make a difference in how much fruit the Word will produce in you. If you are in stormy situations, filled with heat and sand storms of confusion, it may take longer, but you will reap a harvest, some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, some a hundredfold!

“My child, attend to My words; listen to My sayings, don’t let them depart from your sight, keep them in the center of your heart, for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.” (Proverbs 4:20-23)



Mark 4

1. If Jesus said, "Give your attention to what I am saying," what does that tell us?

2. Why is a parable valuable? _____

3. What does plowing to be ready to receive the Word mean?

4. What makes the ground of our heart stony?

5. Do you remember being excited about something God said in His Word, then when people made fun of you or hard times came that you didn't think you deserved, that Word withered away inside of you?

6. How can you give more attention to taking care of the Word that is already sown in your heart? _____

7. Discuss how what you have learned can help you to apply The Sheepfold Mark 4 program in a more meaningful way to your life.

MEMORY VERSE (Proverbs 4:20-23) Write your memory verse here:

Mark 4

1. If Jesus said, “Give your attention to what I am saying,” what does that tell us?

That He is about to say something very important for me to know.

2. Why is a parable valuable? To teach important truths.

3. What does plowing to be ready to receive the Word mean?

Opening our heart to hear and receive it.

4. What makes the ground of our heart stony?

Trouble, pressure, unforgiveness, emotional hurts, guilt.

5. Do you remember being excited about something God said in His Word, then when people made fun of you or hard times came that you didn't think you deserved, that Word withered away inside of you?

Yes or No Group discussion.

6. How can you give more attention to taking care of the Word that is already sown in

your heart? Suggestions for group discussion: Watering with faith. Studying the

Bible. Attending church. Pray and speak the Word. Be with other believers.

7. Discuss how what you have learned can help you to apply The Sheepfold Mark 4 program in a more meaningful way to your life.

MEMORY VERSE (Proverbs 4:20-23) “My child, attend to My words; listen to My sayings, Don't let them depart from your sight, keep them in the center of your heart, for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.”