

## ARE YOU LISTENING?

Mark: Come Follow Me

Mark 4

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July 28, 2024

### 1. RECOGNIZE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE SOIL

Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them, <sup>3</sup> “Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn’t have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn’t deep. <sup>6</sup> When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn’t produce fruit. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times.” <sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.” Mark 4:1–9

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those around him with the Twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> He answered them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to those outside, everything comes in parables <sup>12</sup> so that **they may indeed look, and yet not perceive; they may indeed listen, and yet not understand; otherwise, they might turn back and be forgiven.**” <sup>13</sup> Then he said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand all of the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some are like the word sown on the path. When they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And others are like seed sown on rocky ground. When they hear the word, immediately they receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But they have no root; they are short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, they immediately fall away. <sup>18</sup> Others are like seed sown among thorns; these are the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this age, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, and produce fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundred times what was sown.” Mark 4:10–20

### 2. SEE THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF WHAT YOU SHARE

<sup>21</sup> He also said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn’t it to be put on a lampstand? <sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that

will not be brought to light. <sup>23</sup> If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen.” <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear. By the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and more will be added to you. <sup>25</sup> For whoever has, more will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.” Mark 4:21–25

<sup>26</sup> “The kingdom of God is like this,” he said. “A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> He sleeps and rises night and day; the seed sprouts and grows, although he doesn’t know how. <sup>28</sup> The soil produces a crop by itself—first the blade, then the head, and then the full grain on the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come.” <sup>30</sup> And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It’s like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground. <sup>32</sup> And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade.” <sup>33</sup> He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately, however, he explained everything to his own disciples. Mark 4:26–34

### 3. WHAT IS PLANTED IMPACTS YOUR \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea.” <sup>36</sup> So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” <sup>41</sup> And they were terrified and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!” Mark 4:35–41

<sup>9</sup> If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:9–10