

Read with Your Heart

LESSON 10 – OUTLINE

- I. I knew that God had awesome plans for my life and that there needed to be a tremendous amount of growth and change in me, but I just didn't know how to get started.
 - A. As I was seeking Him, the Lord specifically spoke the parables in Mark 4 to me.
 - B. They made a profound impact on me and set me on a course.
 - C. I still use them almost daily.
 - D. They've become woven into the very fabric of my life.

- II. Jesus gave this parable about a man who went out and sowed seed (Mark 4:1-9).
 - A. The disciples asked Jesus, "Why do You speak to these people in parables?"
 - B. He said, "**This people's heart is waxed gross**" (Matt. 13:15).
 - C. This is literally speaking of a step-by-step, incremental progression.
 - D. A person's heart doesn't just instantly turn against God and become insensitive and unable to hear from Him; it's a process.
 - E. Their ears have become hard of hearing.
 - F. They have eyes but can't see.
 - G. Inside of every person, there's the potential for spiritual perception and receiving from God, but it must be developed.
 - H. Since most people spend virtually no time focused on the things of the Lord, they've become spiritually dull.
 - I. Because there's no way the Lord can speak plainly to such people, He puts spiritual truths in parables.

- III. Jesus went on to say that these disciples had a special anointing from God that enabled them to decipher and learn these spiritual truths (Matt. 13:16-18).
 - A. This is the second purpose of the Lord speaking in parables.

- B. Parables were like a spiritual code: To those who didn't seek God and didn't have hearts for Him, parables seemed foolish, and they rejected them. But to those who have hearts for God, the Holy Spirit has been given to specifically decode and explain these truths.
 - C. The Holy Spirit is sent to you specifically to teach you and explain things that you can't know with just your natural mind (John 14:26 and 16:13-15).
 - D. There were spiritual truths hidden behind and embedded within each parable that the Holy Spirit was intended to reveal.
- IV. Many of you may come against the Word, criticizing it, and saying, "The Bible is hard to understand."
- A. That's because you're reading it with your mind.
 - B. The Lord wrote the Word of God to your heart.
 - C. As you read the Word, you may not understand with your peanut brain something you're reading.
 - D. But you can stop and pray, "Father, I don't understand this. What does it mean?"
 - E. Then you start meditating on that scripture, opening your heart to listen to Him, and saying from your heart, "I want to know You. I want to know what Your Word has to say."
 - F. God—through His Word—will begin speaking to you.
- V. One of the greatest things in my Christian life is the ability to take the Word of God and read it with my mind.
- A. Yet, at the same time that I'm looking at the pages, I go beyond just my mind, and I let my heart listen.
 - B. God speaks to me.
 - C. His Word comes alive.
 - D. Life is literally pumped into me through the Bible.
 - E. If you haven't experienced that, you're missing one of the greatest experiences of all.

- VI. If the sower sowing the seed isn't one of your favorite passages—one that has just transformed your life—then you're missing out on one of the most important keys to the Christian life.

Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

Mark 4:13

- A. Jesus was saying, "If you don't understand this parable, then you can't understand any of My parables. If you can't get the interpretation and application to your personal life of this parable, then you can't understand My teaching."
- B. Christ Himself declared, "This is the key. If you understand this parable, you can understand any of them."
- C. That's powerful!
- VII. So, if the scriptures of the parable of the sower sowing the seed (Matt. 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8) aren't some of the most important scriptures in your life—scriptures from which God has spoken to you—then that's one reason you don't have clear understanding of the Bible.
- A. That's one reason you don't know how the kingdom of God works, and you're dependent on going to someone else and asking them for help.
- B. It's because you have no ability on your own to understand.
- C. It's not hard to understand the things of God.
- D. The hardest thing is getting people to listen with their hearts.

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LESSON 10 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. Read Mark 4:1-9. Jesus taught the people many things by what?
 - A. The seaside
 - B. Parables
 - C. The temple
 - D. A. and B.
 - E. B. and C.
2. What did the fowls of the air devour?
3. What happened to the seed sown on the stony ground?
4. What did the thorns do to the plant?
5. What happened after the seed fell on the good ground?
6. Read Matthew 13:10-13. To whom was it given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God?
7. What will happen to the person who has?
8. What will happen to the person who does not have?
9. According to Matthew 13:15-18, what are you supposed to do with your heart?
10. Who desired to see and hear the things the disciples did?
11. According to 1 John 2:20, you have an _____ from the Holy One.
12. Read John 14:26. What shall the Holy Spirit teach you?
13. What shall He bring to your remembrance?
14. According to John 16:13-15, what will the Spirit of Truth guide you into?
 - A. All circumstances
 - B. All emotion
 - C. All facts
 - D. All truth
 - E. All power
15. Whom will He glorify?
16. Read Mark 4:13. Jesus expected His disciples to _____ this parable.

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LESSON 10 – SCRIPTURES

MARK 4:1-9

And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. [2] And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, [3] Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: [4] And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. [5] And some fell on stony ground, where it had not 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 fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. [8] And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. [9] And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

MATTHEW 13:10-13

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? [11] He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. [12] For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. [13] Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

MATTHEW 13:15-18

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. [16] But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. [17] For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. [18] Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

1 JOHN 2:20

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

JOHN 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

JOHN 16:13-15

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

MARK 4:13

And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?