

Persecution

LESSON 14 – OUTLINE

- I. God's Word is never the variable; it has the same potential in every single person's life.
 - A. What made the Word produce differently in the parable of the sower wasn't the seed itself, but rather the type of soil it found itself in.
 - B. This parable illustrates four different types of hearts.
 - C. It reveals that there's really only one type of response that will allow the seed of God's Word to fully produce its fruit.

- II. Let's continue looking at the second type of person who heard the Word (Mark 4:16-17).
 - A. The word "**offended**" here doesn't mean that they quit believing or renounced the Word.
 - B. You need to recognize that Satan doesn't have to make you totally disavow your faith in the Word.
 - C. If he can just get you to where you're cautious and afraid to speak, then you're hurt and offended, and now you aren't enthusiastic the way you used to be.
 - D. If the devil can get you into that mode, he can stop the Word of God from working in your life.

- III. Mark 4:17 really ministered to me when I saw that the afflictions and persecutions come for the Word's sake.
 - A. They don't come because of you or me personally; it's because of the Word.
 - B. When you start speaking the Word to people, God uses it to bring conviction to them.
 - C. It starts pressuring and motivating them to change.
 - D. They may not mentally be able to separate this and understand it, but that is really what's happening.
 - E. They may think it's you they're upset with and it's you they're criticizing, but what they're really doing is criticizing God's Word coming through you.

- IV. Whenever Jesus spoke, He caused a revival or a riot.
 - A. It's naïve and incorrect for us to think that if we just walk in love, everybody will love us.
 - B. You need to recognize that when you begin to stand on the Word without compromise, it starts to release its power.
 - C. Either people will repent and love you for it, or they'll criticize you because of it.
 - D. God's Word will divide and separate people (Matt. 10:34-36).

- V. If I get offended and become gun-shy about speaking the truth because of what people have to say, the Word of God will cease performing and producing in my life.
 - A. I made a decision almost forty years ago that I wasn't going to let that happen.
 - B. I've been trying to be bold and let the Word of God, rather than the opinions of man, rule and dominate me.
 - C. It's become a habit and a lifestyle for me.
 - D. I may not be doing it perfectly, but I'm moving in this direction because of my conviction from the Word of God.

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LESSON 14 – DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. According to Mark 4:13, what did Jesus expect His disciples to know (understand)?
 - A. When it was time to eat
 - B. The parable of the sower
 - C. Seed, time, and harvest
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. Read Mark 4:16-17. These people received the Word _____.
 - A. Reluctantly
 - B. When they felt like it
 - C. Out of fear
 - D. With gladness
 - E. As long as it lined up with their tradition

3. What do they do for a time?

4. According to Acts 17:6, Jason and certain brethren were those who what?

5. Read Matthew 10:16-42. Is Jesus saying these things to people who aren't His followers?

6. For whose sake would they be brought before governors and kings?

7. It is enough for the disciple to be like whom?

8. Who will Jesus confess before His Father in heaven?

9. **“He that findeth his life shall _____ it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall _____ it.”**

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LESSON 14 – SCRIPTURES

MARK 4:13

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

MARK 4:16-17

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; [17] And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

ACTS 17:6

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.

MATTHEW 10:16-42

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. [17] But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; [18] And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. [19] But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. [20] For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. [21] And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. [22] And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. [23] But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come. [24] The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. [25] It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household? [26] Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. [27] What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. [28] And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able

to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. [29] Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. [30] But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. [31] Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows. [32] Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. [33] But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. [34] Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. [35] For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. [36] And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. [37] He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [38] And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. [39] He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. [40] He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. [41] He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. [42] And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.