

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

# HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR

Mark 4:1-34

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: WHAT WAS THE REAL REASON JESUS SPOKE IN PARABLES?**

Look at Jesus' statement in Mark 4:1-12 and the comment in 33-34.  
Note that the turning point was recounted in Mark 3:22-30.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: THE SOWER AND THE WORD.**

What is the central emphasis of Mark 4:1-20?

Consider the title which Paul N. used for this passage, the "Parable of the Soils".

Discuss the four distinctly different responses to Jesus' teaching:

What was the perspective of each of these groups?

The crowds:

The Jewish Leaders:

The demons:

Jesus' close followers:

How did each of those perspectives affect a person's response to the Word of God?

How do each of these responses tend to affect us as we try to witness?

♦ **PERSONAL STUDY:**

Go back through the message from Sunday and ponder the issues in the remaining parables in Mark 4.

Two of these deal with "The Kingdom of God". Remember, that is not Christianity. Look at Psalm 2, Ezek. 37:24-28 and Daniel 7.

Use the message text for reference. It is online at

<http://gccramona.com/sermons-archive/> and is on the GCC Facebook.

♦ **REFLECTION:**

Think about this: Can we teach an incorrect view of salvation by the way we witness?

What about the emphasis on "Loving Jesus", as compared to recognizing the need to trust Him?

What about the emphasis on turning from sin, as compared to recognizing the need to just trust Him? Could that lead to a thought that "I need to deserve being saved"?

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What is to be the central core of our witness?

♦ **PRAYER:**

Let us be faithful in praying for the Ingvoldstads and the Tagbanwa People:

- Ingvoldstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.
- Refer to the "Lets Talk Strategy!" notes from last Sunday in praying for this body of fellow believers and for the Ingvoldstads and the Binders.

♦ **A CHALLENGE FROM PAUL'S MESSAGE:**

"Jesus holds us accountable to respond to His Word. He held the crowds accountable; because of their continued indifference He switched to parables.

"Teaching in parables was a rebuke. The truth was still there, but it required greater energy and determination to understand what Jesus was saying.

"Jesus held the crowds accountable; those who pay attention to His Word will receive more, but those who do not will lose whatever understanding they had.

"The application for us is straight forward – we need to take the teachings of Jesus very seriously. We need to read His Word, meditate upon His Word and apply His Word. Our worldview, values, goals and behavior all need to be shaped by the teachings of Jesus.

"This is why we emphasize Bible reading and Bible study here at Grace. We need to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly:

*Colossians 3:16–17 (ESV)*

*<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

"I earnestly encourage each one of us to establish daily time in the Word.

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"Remember the promise Jesus made in this passage:

*Mark 4:24 (ESV)*

<sup>24</sup> *And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you.*