

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Mark 4 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Mark 4

Mark 4:1-9

He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat on the sea and sat down, and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, "Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it

sprang up because it had no depth of soil. And when the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much." And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

† The parable of the sower revealed how the word of the kingdom would be received differently.

† Fruitfulness depended on the soil — the heart's condition.

† Jesus called for spiritual hearing, separating true disciples from the crowds.

Mark 4:10-20

As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve disciples, began asking Him about the parables. And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but for those who are outside, everything comes in parables, so that while seeing they may see, and not perceive; and while hearing, they may hear, and not understand, otherwise they might return, and it would be forgiven them." And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it

becomes unfruitful. And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much."

† The kingdom was a mystery revealed to disciples but hidden from hardened hearts.

† Persecution, distraction, and worldliness threatened fruitfulness.

† True disciples received, endured, and bore lasting fruit.

Mark 4:21-25

And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, or under a bed, is it? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand? For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

† The lamp symbolized revelation: God's truth was meant to shine, not be hidden.

† Responsiveness determined further understanding.

† Rejecting light led to loss, but receiving brought abundance.

Mark 4:26-29

And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up daily, and the seed sprouts and grows—how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the stalk, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. Now when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

- † The kingdom's growth was God's work, not man's.
- † It developed in stages, unseen but inevitable.
- † The harvest represented the coming judgment on Israel.

Mark 4:30-34

And He was saying, "How shall we picture the kingdom of God, or by what parable shall we present it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is smaller than all the seeds that are upon the soil, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants, and forms large branches, with the result that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade." With many such parables He was speaking the word to them, so far as they were able to understand it; and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.

- † The mustard seed showed the kingdom's small beginnings but vast growth.
- † Nations (the birds) would find shelter in its branches.
- † Disciples received private explanation, while others remained in darkness.

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let's go over to the other side." After dismissing the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And a fierce gale of wind developed, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling with water. And yet Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They became very much afraid, and said to one another, "Who, then, is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

- † Jesus revealed divine authority by calming the storm.
- † The disciples' fear showed their lack of faith despite His presence.
- † His dominion over creation confirmed Him as the Son of God.

How it applies to us today:

† Mark 4 shows how the kingdom grows, is received, and is revealed through Christ. The fulfilled perspective reminds us that His parables pointed to the covenant transition and the judgment that came in AD 70. For us today, His word is the seed, His kingdom the harvest, and His authority the assurance that we live in the fulfilled kingdom of God.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † Josephus, Wars 6.9.3
- † Philo, On the Special Laws 1.192
- † Tacitus, Histories 5.13
- † Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.11.1

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to

the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.