

# That Little Voice In Your Head

It's possibly Jesus' most popular parable: The Sower. In Mark's account, Jesus questions how the disciples would understand all the parables if they didn't understand this one. It served as an introduction to "kingdom" discussion. So, it seems Jesus considered it necessary. It's a straightforward, real-time parable, and it gets to the heart of the matter. Mark's account begins with the word, "Listen!" That's so important. Listen to what's being said. So, let's listen to the parable again.

## **The Sower: Mark 4:1-20**

- Vs. 1-9. Familiar scene. They used to plant before they planted, whereas we plow and then plant. For them, you'd see what kind of soil you're dealing with after seeding.
- Vs. 10-12. Taken from [Isaiah 6:8-13](#). This statement was a rebuke and hindrance for those in Isaiah's day who refused to listen. Yes, Jesus' style at this point hindered some from understanding and repenting. It was purposeful. Why? Because they didn't want to hear. He knew a call to repentance would make them turn away. Reminds us of Pharaoh.
- Vs. 13-20. Explanation. The majority don't want to hear. Some are shallow and run when life gets hard. Others aren't satisfied with the Kingdom. They hold on but don't produce. They're caught up in life's worries, riches, and pleasures.
- Vs. 21-25. Listen. We're coming full circle. In Hebrew culture, to hear was to obey. It was implied. So, [Deuteronomy 6:4](#) is calling for obedience. The secret/mystery of the kingdom needs to be revealed, not figured out. Like the mystery Paul spoke of, which was revealed: the Kingdom would consist of Jews and Gentiles. However, the more we listen, the more we understand. The less we listen, the less we understand. So, the Lord took away from the little they had. Unbelief hinders your ability to perceive truth. We will see later how He revealed the meaning to His disciples. And Matthew explains how they asked Jesus what they meant. They were seeking. They truly wanted to hear and know the truth. God knows who wants to know and those who do not ([John 6:64](#)). Jesus did not force-feed the truth. We need to learn this lesson when dealing with those inside and outside the body.

So, here we are. Jesus has revealed the fundamental truths of life. We rejoice because our lives are forever changed. I can see it in your face. You came in here a weak, uncommitted sinner, and now you've seen and accepted the light. Look at how bright it's shining. Yet, you're laughing at me as though something's wrong. What's the problem? Is this not so? We smile because (1) I'm being goofy. (2) You wouldn't buy it. You've lived long enough to know people don't work that way. Not because it has to be so but because we refuse to let it be so. This week, I read an article from a brother referencing the old expression, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." He wrote, "That may be true, but if you make that horse thirsty, he'll drink." That's funny. But how can you make the horse thirsty? I've found that to be incredibly hard, if not impossible. Typically, it takes a person hitting rock bottom, a terrifying experience, or a remarkable experience of impromptu love. This doesn't mean we

don't share the truth because those who want to hear and change will value what's said. So, here we are.

Today, it's not Jesus' voice that I want to focus on, but the second one. It's that little voice inside your head. It's you. The conversation you're having as you contemplate what Jesus and His inspired writers instructed. It's what you do with the information. That thought process is one that only you and God know (unless you share it with others). It's that voice that accepts or rejects. That voice that says, "Let's get to it" or "Let's put it off until tomorrow." How does this voice guide you in your understanding of Jesus' teachings? With that in mind, I'd like to share some thoughts based on my knowledge of the Biblical teaching and my experience.

- Waiting for the bottom to drop off is foolish. Many times, our hearts become hard while we wait. Hebrews 3:7-14. Paul said the conscience can become seared and defiled. 1 Timothy 4:2; Titus 1:5. You're treading on this ice.
- You're having difficulties seeing yourself for who you are. I'm sorry, but we all have to go through this. You're dealing with a pride issue. John 3:16ff. It may be that you have never been committed/rooted or that you care too much about this world because God's gracious gift of salvation isn't good enough. If that's the case - you're incredibly near-sighted.
- Take note of how you choose to spend your time. Ephesians 5:16-17. This may speak volumes. It's interesting how we can find time for the things we love. You're trying to keep yourself busy to ignore that inner voice. It's hard for you to sit still with your thoughts, isn't it? Or have we lost the inner voice?
- Be honest with yourself. This parable sets forth principles. The reality is that some people start off weak but later become strong. Some people live among the weeds but occasionally cross over and bear some fruit. There are those who produce fruit but get pulled into the weeds from time to time. Like many of my messages, I try to stay balanced. What kind of soil are you? Where do you typically find yourself? What will you do about it? Our problem is when we try to produce for ourselves vs. for the Lord. When you have a purpose and seek to fulfill it, then you will find joy in producing for the Lord. I'm not trying to sound like a broken record, but there are two kinds of people in the world: the humble and prideful. The humble will seek and follow God's truth and bear fruit for Him. Others try to direct their own steps and bear fruit for death.