



# PARABLES

Lesson 4 for July 27, 2024





“Then He said to them, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him' ”  
(Mark 4:24, 25, NKJV)



A parable is a narration of a fictional event (based or not on real events) from which an important truth or moral teaching is deduced by comparison or similarity.

This is the system that Jesus primarily used in his teachings (Mark 4:34). His parables were generally taken from everyday life and, therefore, easy to remember and apply.

When his listeners returned home, they shared what they learned with their family and friends.



- The reason of existing of parables. Mark 4:10-12.
- The parable of the sower:
  - The sower went out to sow... Mark 4:1-9.
  - The explanation of the parable. Mark 4:13-20.
- Other parables:
  - The lamp and the measurement. Mark 4:21-25.
  - Growth and mustard. Mark 4:26-32.



# THE REASON OF EXISTING OF PARABLES

**"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" (Mark 4:12)**



**Jesus' preaching revolved around the Kingdom of Heaven (Mark 1:14-15). Many of his parables were told to explain the nature of said Kingdom (Mark 4:30).**

**Interestingly, the reason Jesus himself gave for using parables is truly astonishing: lest they understand, or be converted, or be forgiven! (Mark 4:12).**

**This was nothing new. When commanding him to preach, God told Isaiah: "Hear well, and do not understand; see indeed, but do not understand. [...] lest he see with his eyes, nor hear with his ears, nor understand with his heart, nor be converted, and there be healing for him" (Is. 6:9-10).**

**He who hungers for the Word of God will hear the truth and rejoice. But those who do not want to hear, no matter how simple this truth is presented, will refuse to understand, to change, and to achieve salvation.**





# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER





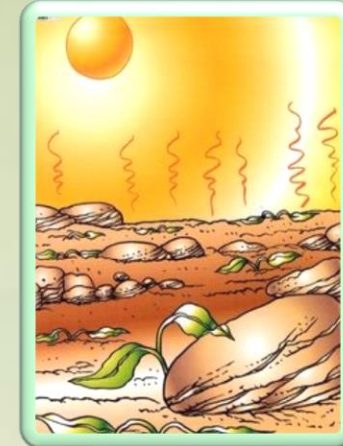
# THE SOWER CAME OUT TO SOW...

"He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:  
"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed" (Mark 4:2-3)

- In a few days, the seed dies (Mark 4:4)



- In a few weeks, the seed dies (Mark 4:5-6)



- At the end of the season, the seed bears fruit (Mark 4:8)

- In a few months, the seed dies (Mark 4:7)

The sower and the seed do not vary. However, the result is totally different for each of the four terrains. It all depends on the way the seed is received.

# THE EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE

"The farmer sows the word" (Mark 4:14)

The seed is the Word of God, and the sower is anyone who transmits it.

- They have no interest, and Satan leads them astray (Mark 4:15)

In the path



- They receive the word, but do not endure the trials (Mark 4:16-17)



between stones

- They resist the tests and do not settle. They bear fruit (Mark 4:20)

on good land



- They receive the word, but they become comfortable (Mark 4:18-19)

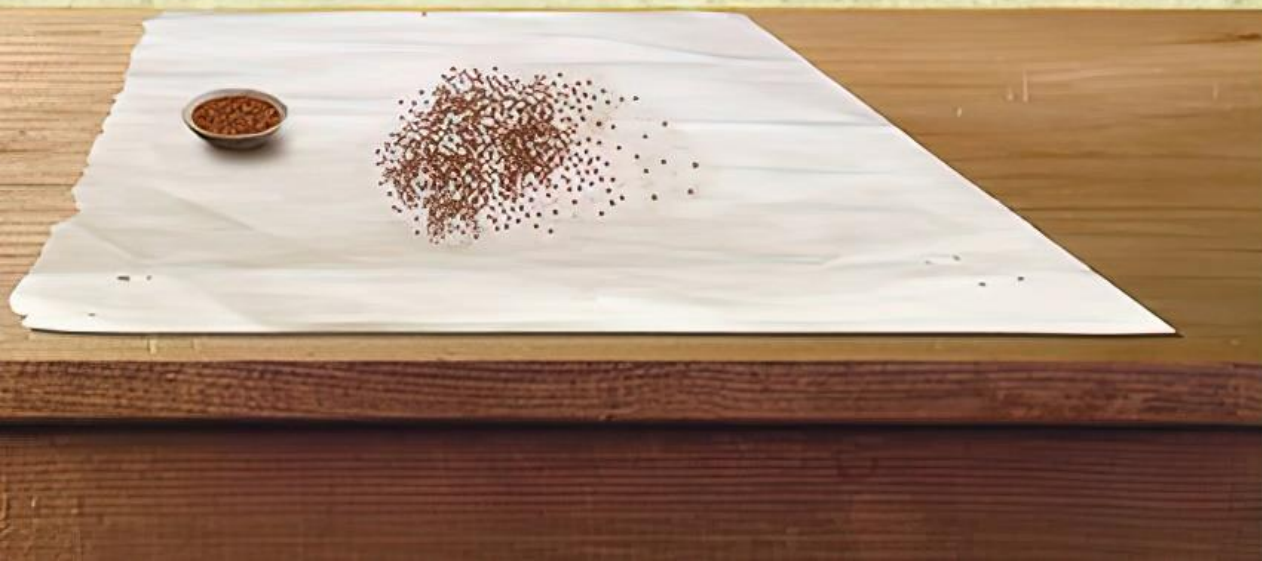
among thorns



What type of soil am I? What should I do to be fruitful?



# OTHER PARABLES





# THE LAMP AND THE MEASURE

**"He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? (Mark 4:21)**

**Visualize the conversation: "Do you bring in...?"  
"No!"; "don't you put it...?" "Well of course!"**

**Jesus knew how to get the attention of his audience. Now they were ready to receive the spiritual lesson.**



**Little by little, Jesus revealed the truth of the gospel so that it would be known to all (Mark 4:22).**

**That night, as they lit their lamps at home, "those who have ears to hear" (Mark 4:23) undoubtedly remembered the lesson.**

**"Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more" (Mark 4:24).**

**On the city streets, merchants sold their products using more or less standard measurements to gauge the amount of product the buyer wanted.**



**If the seller was good, he would add a little more product to the measure to satisfy his customer.**

**If someone is receptive to the truth, they will get even more. But if you reject it, even the truth you have will be lost (Mark 4:25).**



# GROWTH AND MUSTARD

**"He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground"  
(Mark 4:26)**

**Jesus remembers the cycle of grain growth  
(Mark 4:28):**

- 1 Grass**
- 2 Spike**
- 3 Grain**



**It is a process that depends on God, not man  
(Mark 4:27).**

**This is the seed of the  
gospel planted in the fertile  
soil of the believer.**

**Through the action of the  
Holy Spirit we grow more  
and more in the truth... until  
Jesus comes (Mark 4:29;  
Mt. 13:39).**



**"It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest  
of all seeds on earth" (Mark 4:31)**

**The Kingdom of Heaven is  
comparable to a tiny  
mustard seed  
(Mark 4:30-31).**

**After 50 days of sowing,  
mustard reaches 30-40 cm  
in height, and is already  
capable of producing  
harvestable fruit. It can  
grow up to 7 meters high  
(23 Ft.).**

**Small, of course, was the beginning: 120  
"unlettered" people hidden in a room in  
Jerusalem.**

**But its expansion has reached the entire world,  
becoming the religion with the largest number of  
believers.**





**“In parables and comparisons, He found the best method of communicating divine truth. In simple language, using figures and illustrations drawn from the natural world, He opened spiritual truth to His hearers, and gave expression to precious principles that would have passed from their minds, and left scarcely a trace, had He not connected His words with stirring scenes of life, experience, or nature. In this way He called forth their interest, aroused inquiry, and when He had fully secured their attention, He decidedly impressed upon them the testimony of truth. In this way He was able to make sufficient impression upon the heart so that afterward His hearers could look upon the thing with which He connected His lesson, and recall the words of the divine Teacher.**