

## **A The reason of existing of parables. Mark 4:10-12.**

- ❖ 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! (Mk. 4:12; 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.

## **B The parable of the sower:**

### ❖ **The sower went out to sow... Mark 4:1-9.**

- On the way: In a few days, the seed dies (Mark 4:4)
- Between stones: In a few weeks, the seed dies (Mark 4:5-6)
- Among thorns: In a few months, the seed dies (Mark 4:7)
- On good soil: At the end of the season, the seed bears fruit (Mark 4:8)
- 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. Mark 4:13-20.**

- The seed is the Word of God, and the sower is anyone who transmits it.
- On the way: They have no interest, and Satan leads them astray (Mark 4:15)
- Between stones: They receive the word, but they do not endure the tests (Mark 4:16-17)
- Among thorns: They receive the word, but they become comfortable (Mark 4:18-19)
- In good soil: They resist tests and do not settle. They bear fruit (Mark 4:20)
- What type of soil am I? What should I do to be fruitful?

## **C Other parables:**

### ❖ **The lamp and the measurement. Mark 4:21-25.**

- The parable of the lamp:
  - Visualize the conversation: "Do you bring in...?" "No!"; "don't you put it...?" "Well of course!" (Mark 4:21).
  - 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.
- The parable of measurement:
  - 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. Mark 4:26-32.**

- The parable of growth:
  - Jesus remembers the cycle of grain growth (Mark 4:28): Grass; spike; 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).
- The parable of the mustard:
  - 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 (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.