

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today's topic: PARABLES.

1. The centrality and purpose of the parables of Jesus

- a) Mark 4:33-34 How significant were parables in the teaching ministry of Jesus?
- b) What can we learn from the fact that Mark records 8 parables of Jesus (2 are unique), Matthew records 23 parables (11 are unique), and Luke records 24 parables (18 are unique)?
- c) Mark 4:10-12 Why did Jesus use parables when sharing truth with His hearers?

2. The parable of the Sower

- a) Mark 4:1-9 (Matthew 13:1-9, Luke 8:4-8) What important truths do you learn from the Parable of the Sower?
- b) What is the significance of the fact that this parable of Jesus is mentioned in all 3 Synoptic Gospels?
- c) Mark 4:13-20 What important lessons can we learn from the interpretation of the parable by Jesus?
- d) Share the story of an individual in the Gospels or the Book of Acts whose heart was transformed by God into good soil.
- e) What promises or stories in God's Word assure us that He is able to transform our hearts? Ezekiel 36:26-27, Luke 19:8-10, Acts 9:1-6, etc.
- f) Share a time when your heart wasn't good soil. How did God transform your heart into good soil?

3. The parable of the lamp

- a) Mark 4:21-23 What important lesson can we learn from this parable of Jesus?
- b) What light is Jesus referring to here? (John 8:12, Matthew 5:14)
- c) How does this parable relate to the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount? Matthew 5:14-16

4. The parable of the measuring basket

- a) Mark 4:24 How does a generous measure reflect the character of our Creator and Redeemer? (See also Leviticus 19:13, 15-36)
- b) Share a time when someone gave you a generous measure. How did that make you feel?
- c) What key lesson is Jesus wanting us to learn from the parable of the measuring basket?
- d) Explain the startling comment of Jesus recorded in Mark 4:25.

5. The parables of the seeds

- a) Mark 4:26-29 What important lessons can we learn from the parable of the growing seeds, only recorded in Mark's Gospel record?
- b) Mark 4:30-32 How does the parable of the mustard seed differ from the parable of the growing seeds?
- c) Where have you witnessed amazing growth in the kingdom of God?

