

Mark 4:1-12
Who Will Believe The King's Message?

Mark 4:1-34: Jesus Teaches In Parables
Those Outside: 4:2 Teaching them in parables

Kingdom of God

Mark 4:3-8 Sower	Growth
Mark 4:26-29 Seed	Growth
Mark 4:30-32 Mustard seed	Growth

Those Outside: 4:33-34 Everything in parables

Jesus Teaches By The Ominous Sea

Mark 4:1 He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

He Spoke To Them In Parables

Mark 4:2-4 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, "**Listen to this!** Behold, the sower went out to sow; as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

Unbelievers Don't Persevere

Mark 4:5-6 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 after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Believers Will Bear Fruit

Mark 4:7-9 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 hundredfold. And He was saying, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**"

The Elect Are Given "The Mystery"

Mark 4:10-12 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, 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 those who are outside get everything 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 be forgiven."

What Is The Mystery of The Kingdom?

➤ "The Kingdom which is to come finally in apocalyptic power, as foreseen by Daniel, has in fact entered into the world in advance in a hidden form to work secretly within and among men" (George Ladd, *The Presence of The Future*, 225)

Luke 24:21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

The Last Days Are Here!

Daniel 2:28a However, there is a God in heaven who reveals **mysteries**, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar the things which must take place in the latter days.

Revelation 1:1a The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must take place soon.

God Hardens The Reprobate

Mark 4:11-12 To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything 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 be forgiven.

Which Is It?

➤ **“So that”**

Purpose: Jesus gave them parables for the purpose of hardening their hearts.

Result: The lack of belief to Jesus' preaching leads to fulfillment of Isaiah 6:9-10.

➤ **It's Both:**

God hardened: (Mark 4:11; Matthew 13:11)

Men are responsible: (Isaiah 28:9-10)

God's Sovereignty

Romans 9:16-19 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, **but** on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.” So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”

Man Is Responsible

Romans 1:19-20 NET ...because what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible attributes – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, because they are understood through what has been made. **So people are without excuse.**

Man Is Responsible

Romans 10:6-8 But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”— that is, the word of faith which we are preaching...

The Hardness of Men’s Hearts

Mark 3:5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Mark 3:28-30 “...all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”— because they were saying, “He has an unclean spirit.”

Believe Today – Tomorrow Is Coming

Hebrews 3:7-8 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
