

# MARK

Mark Wk 12  
Mk. 4:1-20

## General:

- Have you ever thought you fully understood something, only to later realize you were missing an important part of it? What happened?
- Why do you think Jesus often taught through parables instead of simply explaining everything directly?
- Pastor Chip noted that the sea often symbolizes chaos in the Old Testament. Where do you currently see chaos, uncertainty, or disorder in your life?
- Jesus repeatedly calls people to have "ears to hear." What's the difference between hearing God's Word and obeying it?
- In verse 10, "those around Him with the twelve" stayed to learn more from Jesus. What does that reveal about the kind of people who grow spiritually?
- Pastor Chip emphasized that Scripture was written primarily for God's people. How should that shape the way believers approach reading and applying God's Word?
- After hearing Jesus explain the parable, which part of the explanation stands out to you most and why?
- "Comfort has killed more disciples than prison." When you look at your own life, are there areas where comfort may be dulling your dependence on God?
- Pastor Chip concluded: "If our life looks exactly like the world except for church attendance, the thorns may already be winning." What do you think he meant by that?

**Take Home 1:** This is not about the message or the messenger, it is about the soil

- As you look at the four soils in this parable, which one most closely reflects your heart in this season of life? Why?
- Jesus generously scatters seed everywhere, even on soil that will not immediately respond. What does that reveal about God's character and His posture toward people?
- The rocky soil receives the Word quickly but develops no deep roots. What are some things that keep God's Word from taking deep root in our lives?
- Jesus warns that thorns can choke out spiritual growth. What distractions, worries, desires, or pursuits are most likely to compete for your attention and affection right now?

**Take Home 2:** Tribulation does not destroy our faith, it reveals it (Mk. 4:17)

- Pastor Chip said: "The same sun that kills the shallow plant strengthens the rooted plant." What does that teach us about hardship and spiritual maturity?
- When difficulty, disappointment, or suffering enters your life, what does it tend to reveal about your faith?
- "The Word of God creates conflict," because it challenges our desires, assumptions, and priorities. Where have you experienced that tension in your own life?
- When you're facing a difficult season, do you find yourself focusing more on the size of the problem or the strength of your faith? What helps you keep the right perspective?

**Take Home 3:** Fruitfulness, not profession, is the real evidence of hearing the word (Mk. 4:20)

- What's the difference between hearing the Word and doing the Word? What's one area where God may be calling you to move from merely hearing His Word to actively living it out this week?
- When you think about your life over the past year, what evidence of spiritual fruit do you see God producing in you?