### Mark

## Chapter 4

1Well on another occasion, as he was teaching by the seashore, such a huge crowd came to him there that he had to step into a boat and sit out on the sea, as the crowd stood on the shore.  
  
2Then he taught them many things through parables, saying:  
  
 3‘Now, pay close attention!  
  
 ‘{Look!} A farmer went out to do planting.  
 4And as he was scattering seeds,  
 A few fell alongside the road,  
 Which were thereafter eaten by birds.  
  
 5‘Other seeds fell among rocks,  
 And they sprouted where there wasn’t much ground.  
 But because there was too little soil,  
 6When the sun arose, they were scorched…  
 They withered, because they didn’t have roots.  
  
 7‘Other seeds fell among briers,  
 Which grew and choked out those seeds,  
 So they couldn’t produce any fruit.  
  
 8‘But others fell upon good soil,  
 Where they flourished and grew, producing much fruit,  
 Some 30, some 60, or 100 times more.’  
  
9Then he added:  
  
 ‘Let those who have ears pay attention!’  
  
  
10Well later, the 12 (as well as the rest that were around him) asked [Jesus] what the parable meant.  
  
11And he told them this:  
  
 ‘The mystery of the Kingdom of God has just been given to you. For those on the outside only hear the stories 12so when they can look, they can’t see, and when they hear, they don’t really listen and understand, so they can ever turn back and be forgiven.  
  
 13‘However, if you don’t understand the meanings of these parables, how will you be able to understand all the rest?  
  
 14‘The one who is scattering the seeds is planting the word, 15and where it falls beside the road, the Opposer immediately comes and snatches away all that was dropped there.  
  
 16‘The same is true of those that fall among the rocks. These are the ones who joyfully accept the word as soon as they hear it, 17but because they don’t have roots, they only last a little while. For when some difficulty or persecution comes along over the word, they’re stumbled.  
  
 18‘Likewise, those who are planted among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, 19but let it get choked out by the concerns of this life, the allure of wealth, and desires for other things, so they become unfruitful.  
  
 20‘However, those that are planted on the fine soil are the ones who listen to the word and accept it…  
  
 ‘Then they bear fruit 30, 60, and 100 times more.’  
  
21So Jesus went on to tell them this:  
  
 ‘You don’t put a lamp under a basket,  
 Nor do you put it under a bed…  
 You it put on a table, instead.  
 22So there’s no secret that won’t be made known,  
 Or anything hidden that won’t be shown…  
 23Let those who have ears pay attention!’  
  
24He continued:  
  
 ‘Pay attention to the things that I’m saying!  
 Whatever amount that you measure for others  
 Is the amount that you’ll receive…  
 And more will be added to that.  
 25For those who have will be given more,  
 While all will be taken from those who don’t have.’  
  
26Then he went on to say:  
  
 ‘The Kingdom of God is much like a man  
 Who scatters his seeds on the ground,  
 27And goes to sleep through the night.  
 Then, when he wakes up the next morning,  
 He finds that the seeds have sprouted and grown,  
 And he doesn’t really know how it happened!  
  
 28‘For the ground produces fruit by itself…  
 First the blades, then the stalks,  
 And finally, the full heads of grain.  
 29Then as soon as it has all ripened,  
 The man arrives with his sickle…  
 For the time to harvest has arrived.’  
  
30And he asked:  
  
 ‘To what [else] can the Kingdom of God be compared…  
 What parables can we use to describe it?  
  
 31‘It’s much like the small mustard seed,  
 Which, before it’s planted under the ground  
 Is one of the smallest seeds on the earth.  
 32Yet, after it’s planted, it grows  
 To be larger than all vegetation…  
 It grows branches that can be so great  
 That birds in the skies can dwell in its shadow.’  
  
33Yes, this is the way he taught the word to them, speaking in parables for as long as they were able to pay attention. 34It’s a fact that if he wasn’t speaking in parables, he wasn’t talking to them. However, when they were all alone, he thereafter explained everything to his disciples.  
  
  
  
35Well, later that evening, he said to them:  
  
 ‘Now, let’s cross over to the other shore.’  
  
36So after they dismissed the crowd, they left in the same boat that he had been teaching from (along with some other boats that came with them). 37However, a gale-force wind then arose and waves were pouring into the boats... until it was nearly full [spurious words] 38But meanwhile, [Jesus] was peacefully sleeping on a pillow in the stern.  
  
So they woke him up and said:  
  
 ‘Teacher, aren’t you worried that we’re about to die?’  
  
39So he got up and scolded the wind, then he said to the sea:  
  
 ‘Be quiet! Hush!’  
  
And at that, the wind died down and a great calm set in.  
  
40And he asked them:  
  
 ‘Why are you so cowardly? Don’t you have any faith?’  
  
41Well, this really frightened them and they started asking each other:  
  
 ‘Who really is this? For even the wind and the sea obeys him!’