

## Real Refreshment Podcast: Mark Study

### Mark 4:1-34: Opposition of the Servant

Begin by praying that God's Spirit will bless your time in His word, that He will teach you His truth, that He will meet you right where you are today as you seek Him. Next, read through the whole passage slowly. Try to step into the passage remembering that Mark is recounting real events as Peter told him.

Passage breakdown:

Mark 4:1-12

What is the setting?

Where is Jesus?

Where is He sitting?

Who is gathered?

Where are they?

How was Jesus teaching them?

What is a parable?

Who is the main character in the parable?

What did he set out to do?

Into what four kinds of soil did his seed fall? Note what resulted in each instance.

1-

2-

3-

4-

What admonition did Jesus issue at the conclusion of the parable?

When He was alone with His followers, what did they do?

How did He respond to them?

Mark 4:13-25

As He began to explain the parable, what did Jesus say the Sower sows?

Note again the four types of soil and Jesus's explanation of each:

1-

2-

3-

4-

Jesus then makes a new comparison. What does He say ought to be done with a lamp?

Why?

How are the seed and the lamp similar?

Note how Jesus began this parable in 4:1, how He instructs the crowd in 4:9 and 4:23.

What warning does He issue in 4:24-25?

What responsibility is underscored for His listeners?

Mark 4:26-29

To what does Jesus compare the kingdom of God?  
What character does He use?  
What action does he take?  
How does the Sower ensure a good crop?  
For what part of the harvest is the Sower responsible?

Mark 4:30-34

What new comparison does Jesus make to the kingdom of God?  
How is this seed characterized?  
Yet, what miracle occurs when it is planted?  
According to Mark, what was Jesus primary method of teaching the crowds?  
To whom did He explain their meaning?

Here are the “immediately” verses in this week’s passage. Note what action takes place immediately:

Mark 4:5  
Mark 4:15  
Mark 4:16  
Mark 4:17  
Mark 4:29

Take some time to read back over the passage and your notes. Are there parts of this passage that stand out to you? Pray that God will continue to teach you as you meditate on His word, the story of His Son, Jesus.

Consider this:

Do you dare to listen, really listen, to Jesus’s teaching?  
Which of the four soils most closely describes your heart?  
What truth(s) have you allowed the enemy to steal away?  
What afflictions and persecutions have prohibited you from being rooted in the word?  
What worries of the world have distracted you from God?  
What deceitful desires for wealth and riches have choked your hunger for God?  
How has the word, planted in your heart yielded a harvest?  
Where do you keep your testimony of God’s goodness?  
With whom have you shared your light?  
Have you dared to plant good seed in good soil expecting a good harvest?  
Do you regularly practice a “mustard seed’s” measure of faith under which others find shelter?