



SERMON NOTES

We Are A People - Obeying the Word Pt. 4

Kraig Oman // 12-10-23

The Chaos of Jesus' Early Ministry (Mark 1-3)

- Jesus issued gag orders yet still lost control over access to his own audiences (1:45)
- At one point, a paralytic's friend had to dig through a roof to get to Jesus (2:4)
- A boat offshore was needed to situate Jesus out of reach of needy crowds (3:9-10)
- Blockaded in a house because of the crowds, Jesus could not even eat (3:20)
- This chaos prompted his family to intervene as if "he is out of his mind" (3:21)

Become Convinced of God's Reign To Bring an End of Evil's Reign

21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. (Mark 1:21-28 NIV)

The Parable is Like the Boat

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." 9 Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." (Mark 4:1-9 NIV)

Five Elements to Jesus' Teaching Strategy

1. He challenges the audience to listen.
2. He presents them with something meaningful but enigmatic.
3. He lets them experience a little incomprehension to induce their hunger for his meaning.
4. He insists that the parable is intelligible and chides them for having not worked it out on their own (Mk 4:13)
5. He provides the explanation for those who are hungry enough to have followed him (Mk 4:10)

The Answer Key

13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown." (Mark 4:13-20 NIV)

How and How Not to Listen to the Word (Mark 4:14-20)

So, let's make sure we are *not*

- Those who won't listen and thus invite God's enemy to come snatch the word from us.
- Those who listen only while it's popular but abandon it once there is a social cost for holding fast to it.
- Those who fail to prioritize Jesus' word over competing wants and concerns, like comfort, security, and wealth.

Instead, let's make sure we *are*

- Those who hear Jesus' word, let it take root, don't give up on it when it gets hard, and make it the top priority over other concerns.

