

THIS WEEK’S MESSAGE

JUNE 22ND, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

TRUTH REVEALED (MARK 4:21–25) “HE ALSO SAID TO THEM...”

Though verse 21 may not pick up chronologically right after Jesus explained the “Parable of the Sower” (v.13–20), the author shared Jesus’ words here to show our **responsibility to share the gospel** (to sow *and to water*).

- **Each one of us is responsible for the light or knowledge that we have received.**

“FOR THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN...”

God has made Himself known (Rom. 1:20) to everyone. **It is our responsibility to respond to this general revelation, then tell others of the hope we have found.**

- **God did not reveal Himself to us** (by giving us knowledge of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ) **for us to hide that knowledge away.**
- “Don’t these Christians really believe their tradition? **If their message is true, why are they so afraid to talk about it?”** (Nabeel Qureshi)
- “How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? ...**to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that.**” (Penn Jillette)

“PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU HEAR.”

The word “hear” carries the connotation of “acting upon” what is heard (James 1:22–25). Though there is responsibility on the teacher for what is being said, **that does not remove the responsibility of those listening.**

- Christians are to **be careful to place themselves under sound teachers who teach the whole counsel of God’s Word.**

“WHOEVER HAS...AND WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE”

God responds to us as we have responded to Him and His Word. When we receive God’s Word with gladness and a desire for more of Him, **more will be given.** However, if we have no desire for God and His Word, **the truth that is written on our hearts** (Romans 2:15) **will fade away** as we move dangerously close to being given over to a “corrupt mind” (Romans 1:28).

SPIRITUAL GROWTH FOLLOWS MOMENTUM

If we actively receive the Word and respond to it, then godly habits will form that can be built upon. However, if momentum has us going in a direction of opposition to the Word, then habits of the world will be formed and built upon.

- If we are heading in the wrong direction, **God can change our course** in a moment, **if we are humble and repentant.**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD (MARK 4:26–34) THE PARABLE OF THE GROWING SEED

We do what we are commissioned to do—plant seeds—and God does what only He can do—grow the seed (1 Corinthians 3:6–8).

- **How the seed grows is unseen by those who plant it**, but God has promised that His Word would accomplish the purpose it was sent for (Isaiah 55:11). **We are to trust the promise of the process.**

THE MUSTARD SEED

Some have thought this parable was describing a small grassroots movement (“*mustard seed*”) growing into a church so large that it provides refuge to all the world (“*birds of the sky*”).

- It is possible that **Jesus is telling His followers that all kinds of people will become part of the Kingdom.**

ABNORMAL GROWTH

Though it was abnormal for a mustard seed to grow into more than a large bush, this parable is **not a warning against God-ordained church.**

- In some previous parables (Mark 4:15) birds represented Satan, so most likely Jesus is showing that when the church grows in ways God did intend, then **it provides opportunity for Satan to get in and get to work.**

WIND AND WAVES OBEY JESUS (MARK 4:35–41) HE WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE SAYS

Jesus’ words to His disciples were, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the sea,” not, “Load up into the boat so we can ride out into a storm and perish in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.”

- Nothing Jesus said was empty or in vain. **We should hang on to every word He speaks and trust what He has said.**

“ON THAT DAY...”

Jesus had taught the multitudes from a boat and was tired and weary, so the disciples were obedient and **took Jesus by boat just as He had told them to do.**

- Jonah was commanded by God to go and, because of his disobedience, ended up in a storm, yet **the disciples found themselves in a storm because of their obedience.**

THE “STORMS” OF THIS LIFE

We all face “storms” in this life.

- We may find ourselves in the midst of a storm because of rebellion and disobedience; the storm may be **God’s way to get our attention.** Or God may be using the storm we find ourselves in because of obedience as **a way of testing, refining, and producing** something in us.

“WE’RE GOING TO DIE”

The Sea of Galilee was known for its violent, sudden storms and as this storm hits, we see the severity of it in the reaction of these former fishermen turned disciples.

- We see the **humanity of the disciples** displayed by their fear in the storm, and we see **Jesus’ humanity** in that He became tired and weary and needed sleep.

PEACE AND FAITH IN THE STORM

Jesus’ sleep was not only the slumber of someone who had been worn out but also the slumber of someone with peace and faith.

- Jesus was not kept awake by worries of the world. He was not worried about the opposition, His family thinking He was “out of his mind,” or the overwhelming need around Him. Instead, **He was fast asleep in the middle of a storm.**

“SO THEY WOKE HIM UP...”

It was not the storm or the boat taking on water that awoke Jesus, but it was His disciples pleading with Him.

- The disciples were not pleading with Jesus to do something. By saying, “**Don’t you care that we’re going to die?**” **they were rebuking Jesus for what they perceived as indifference to the severity of the situation.**
- “If our Lord be asleep, He is asleep near the helm—He only has to put His hand out and steer the vessel at once. He is asleep, but He only sleeps until we cry more loudly to Him. When we get into such trouble that **we cannot help ourselves and we feel our entire dependence on Him**, then **He will reveal His power.**” (Spurgeon)

JESUS REBUKED THE WINDS

Jesus, with the same command He issued to a demon in Mark 1:25, told the winds to stop and they obeyed Him.

- Whether there was a demonic element to the storm is irrelevant. The disciples witnessed the Creator with authority over creation and asked, “**Who then is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!**”

JESUS REBUKED HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus asked His disciples, “**Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?**” Jesus did not rebuke them because they were scared, but He rebuked them for their response in the face of a scary situation.

- **Their response showed that they did not believe** (“have faith”) **what Jesus said:** “Let’s cross over to the other side.”

CALMING THE STORM

- If we are facing storms of correction, respond to God through repentance.
- If we are facing storms that God is using to teach us, respond to Him by remaining receptive and teachable. Seek wisdom (James 1:5) from God in what He is wanting to reveal to you and teach you.
- If God is using a storm to refine us, we must trust that God is doing a good work in us (Philippians 1:6).
- If God is testing us with a storm, we must rely on Him for the strength to endure.
- Do we desire what God may be trying to produce in us through a storm (James 1:2–4)?