

## Sermon Notes – November 19, 2023

### Review:

- ⇒ We've seen that Mark isn't just "telling a story" — he is introducing us to a Person he calls "Jesus Christ, the Son of God." This is significant because even today following Jesus isn't simply about living a certain lifestyle or agreeing to a set of beliefs. Rather, being a Christian is trusting Christ and Him alone as your Savior from sin, resulting in being "born again" by the Spirit of God. Apart from that new birth, there is no new life.
- ⇒ Mark's gospel expresses action, has fewer stories, and is full of surprises (like who responds in faith and who doesn't).
- ⇒ Last week with Pastor Ben we saw the Parable of the Soils (also called the "Parable of the Sower") and we asked the question, "What's going on in your heart?"

### Today's Text: Mark 4:21-41

Today's preaching text has four sections, three that continue with parables, and one that returns to narrative action. Jesus uses parables to reveal truth to those who will listen and to conceal truth from those with critical and hard hearts. This section concludes with an iconic reminder that God is indeed at work, even in the storms.

### What Is God's Kingdom Like? (21-34)

- ⇒ Following last week's familiar Parable of the Soils, Jesus now presents three additional glimpses into the inner workings of God's kingdom. Notice that the call to "\_\_\_\_\_ " runs throughout this chapter.
- ⇒ In the first short parable (21-25), we see that Jesus' teaching is not meant to be \_\_\_\_\_, but to be revealed, bringing light to all who will hear. There is a difference, however, in *how* people hear — some hear with spiritual perception and respond in faith; others reject the message and miss the point entirely.
- ⇒ In the second parable (26-29), Jesus returns to the metaphor of agriculture. Just as a farmer doesn't actually see the \_\_\_\_\_ of the seed, so God, the heavenly Farmer, accomplishes His work, regardless of whether we see how it works or not. Ultimately, the great Day of the Harvest is sure!

- ⇒ Finally, Jesus tells the story of the mustard seed (30-32), teaching that God's work may start small and look \_\_\_\_\_, but in the end, it will grow into a mature "tree," far exceeding the humble beginning.
- ⇒ This section of parables concludes with a reminder of how parables work (33-34). Jesus uses parables to reveal truth to some, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the truth from others. Those who are humble, who listen in faith, receive additional teaching from Jesus, while those with critical and hard hearts don't see the point of all the stories that appear to them as riddles.

### A Vivid Illustration Of The Kingdom: The KING In Action (35-41)

- ⇒ "On that day, when evening had come" Jesus and His disciples cross the Sea of Galilee and find themselves in a fierce storm. Such fierce storms are not uncommon on that body of water due to the hills that surround the lake, producing strong winds, often seemingly out of nowhere.
- ⇒ Notice that others are in danger as well, since "other boats were with them." As the storm progresses, the boat takes on water, and even the experienced \_\_\_\_\_ among them are afraid that they're going to die. Surprisingly, Jesus is still asleep in the back of the boat.
- ⇒ As followers of Jesus have discovered through the years, \_\_\_\_\_ often produce the feeling that God doesn't see or care, hence their cry, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" The assumption, of course, is that if God cares, He'll intervene in our storm...or prevent it altogether.
- ⇒ Jesus' questions in verse 40 are revealing. **Why is He able to sleep in the storm? Because He fully trusts the Father and calls His followers to do the same.**
- ⇒ Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ is the big issue here: He is the Christ, the Messiah, the Promised One, the true King of the coming Kingdom, God in the flesh! He is the One in the boat with you! Do you trust Him?

### Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ About this story, Jerry Bridges pointed out, "Do you see the gospel here? **Jesus slept in the boat for me!**" This is an example of Jesus' perfect righteousness that is credited to us when we trust Christ as our Savior.

Worship Next Sunday: November 26, 2023

"Only Jesus Conquers The Power Of Darkness"

(Mark 5:1-20) Pastor Jay Mosser

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