

THE BOOK OF MARK

The background features a city skyline with various skyscrapers, rendered in a light teal color. This skyline is superimposed on a background of soft, white, fluffy clouds. The entire image is covered with a vertical color gradient that transitions from a deep teal at the top to a warm orange at the bottom.

UNEXPECTED

KINGDOM

32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "*Who are my mother and my brothers?*" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "*Here are my mother and my brothers!*"

35 *Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."*

Mark 3:32-35 (NIV 2011)

¹ 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.

Mark 4:1 (NIV 2011)



Mediterranean Sea

Capernaum

Galilee

Sea of Galilee

Jerusalem





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. ...*

Mark 4:2-9 (NIV 2011)

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 4:2-9 (NIV 2011)

¹⁰ When he was alone, **the Twelve and the others around him asked him** about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But **to those on the outside** everything is said in parables ¹² so that,
“ ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’”

Mark 4:10-12 (NIV 2011)

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. ...

Mark 4:13-20 (NIV 2011)

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.”

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Mark 4:13-20 (NIV 2011)

Applications

- 1. It's ok to be different – to not go along with the majority.**

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- 2. Don't choke.**

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.

Mark 4:18-19 (NIV 2011)

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.

Mark 4:18-19 (NIV 2011)

²⁶ He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29 (NIV 2011)



³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?

³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.

Mark 4:30-34 (NIV 2011)

³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

Mark 4:30-34 (NIV 2011)



“More than half of all Christian adherents in the whole history of the church have been alive in the last one hundred years. Close to half of Christian believers who have ever lived are alive right now.”

Mark Noll, *The New Shape of World Christianity*





