

Mark-The Misunderstood Messiah- Part 4
The Parables of the Messiah
Mark 4:1-34

- I. The Purpose of the Parables
Mark 4:10-12, 21-25, 33-34
 - A. To Connect and to Subvert
v. 3, 8, 21, 24-25, 26, 29, 31
 - B. To Reveal and Obscure
v. 11-12, 21-25
 - C. To Explain His Actions
Isaiah 6:8-13
- II. The Message of the Messiah
Mark 4:1-34
 - A. Available for those who will Receive it
v. 4-7, 11-12, 15-19, 23; Mark 2:17
 - B. Forces a Decision
v. 20, 24, John 3:18-19
 - C. It's Not What You Think
v. 3, 31-32
- III. Looking for the Kingdom
Luke 17:21
 - A. Ears to Hear are Fertile Soil
Mark 4:20, 23-25
 - B. Patience is the Path to the Kingdom
v. 26-29
 - C. Expect Big Things
v. 31-32

Questions for Further Reflection

1. Kid's Question: What is your favourite story? Why?
2. What is your favourite type of story (Fiction, Non-Fiction, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, etc)?
3. What parables of Jesus do you feel are really confusing?
4. Do you find it frustrating or encouraging that the parables are meant to be wrestled with?
5. What do you make of God's words to Isaiah in Is. 6 that Jesus quotes? Is God being unfair? Why would God work this way?
6. In what ways can you practice looking for the kingdom right now?
7. What thoughts can be taken from the parable of the sower to develop "fertile ears"?
8. How do we hold in tension the ideas that patience is required and that the Kingdom will bring about massive unpredictable changes?

Homework: Go reread some parables. Take off your theological/moral glasses and read them fresh to see what they might be telling you about Jesus and His ministry.