

Mark Chapter 3:13-4:41

Dr. Joseph N. Cousin, Sr.

March 16, 2022

Chapter 3:13-35, 4:1-41

Jesus Chooses
The Disciples
3:13-19

Family
Dynamics 3:20-
35

Farmer And The
Seed 4:1-20

The Lamp 4:21-
25

Growing Seed
4:26-29

Mustard Seed
And Parable
Summary 4:30-
34

Jesus Calms The
Storm 4:35-41

Jesus Chooses The Disciples 3:13-19

- Jesus chose those who He wanted to go with Him—and He appointed them and called them to go with Him.
- As they accompanied Him, He sent them out to preach—and gave them authority to cast out demons.
- Commentary: What are the sacrifices necessary to go with Jesus?
- Are we fulfilling the preaching mandate Jesus places on us?
- Are we actively looking to utilize the authority given by Jesus to glorify God?

Family Dynamics 3:20-35

Crowds began to gather around Jesus, and He soon had no time to Himself.

His family thought He was out of His mind, so they tried to take Him away.

However, the religious leaders thought that Jesus was possessed by satan—until Jesus asked them how can satan cast out satan?

Then, Jesus gives the illustration about a family fighting against one another—right after His own family thought He was losing His mind.

After Jesus rebuked the religious leaders, His mother brothers came to see Him and when Jesus was informed He asked this question—who are my brothers--concluding by stating that anyone who does God's Will is His brother and mother.

Commentary: Often times it is our family—or those closest to us that often misunderstand us.

What is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?

What is the true family of God? Are we willing to accept everyone into this family—even when we are not accepted by them?

The Farmer And The Seed 4:1-20

- Jesus teaches a parable about a farmer planting seed.
- Birds ate some seed on the footpath; other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock—and the seed sprouted quickly but soon withered and died because it had no root system; other seed fell among thorns and was choked out producing no grain.
- Then, other soil fell on fertile soil and it sprouted and grew producing a great crop.
- Jesus told the disciples that He teaches in parables for the reason in verse 12.
- He then explains the message this way: the seed on the footpath are those that allow Satan to take God's Word away; the rocky soil seed are those that receive God's Word with joy but without roots they don't last long; the seed among the thorns are those that receive God's Word but soon the cares of life and temptation produce no fruit; and the last seed are those that hear and receive God's Word and produce a great harvest.
- Commentary: What did Jesus mean in verse 12 about parables?
- Which seed describes the majority of the church today?
- Which seed most accurately describes you?

- Jesus tells His next parable about lighting a lamp and putting it under a basket—where the light is hidden.
- A light is meant to shine—not be hidden.
- Then Jesus says that everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light—telling the people to pay attention to what they hear because the more closely they listen, the more they will understand—but if you don't listen—you will not lose all understanding.

- Commentary: What are you doing to make sure that your light shines?
- How closely is the world listening to Jesus?
- How closely are you listening to Jesus?

The Lamp

4:21-25

Growing Seed 4:26-30

- Jesus then tells another parable about a farmer and seed.
- A farmer scatters seed on the ground, and it always grows, but the farmer does not understand how it happens.
- And when the seed finally grows into a harvest, the farmer must come and harvest it with a sickle—for harvest has come.
- **Commentary:** God will provide the growth—we don't have to worry about that.
- We just have to prepare ourselves to harvest the growth that God provides.
- Are we truly ready to harvest God's growth?

Mustard Seed And Parable Summary 4:30- 34

- Jesus gives a parable about the Kingdom of God—and describes it as a mustard seed planted in the ground.
- The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants—and even birds can make nests in its long branches.
- All of this from the tiniest seed.
- Jesus taught with many parables in the public—and when He was alone with His disciples He always explained the parables.
- Commentary: We must understand that size is not important to God—God can do the miraculous with very little.
- Don't ever think that you are too small or insignificant for God to use—God is waiting to bless someone else through you.
- Why did Jesus teach with parables to the public—and then explain them to the disciples?
- Again, are we really listening to Jesus?

Jesus Calms The Storm 4:35-41

- Jesus tells the disciples to cross to the other side of the lake so they started out in a boat leaving crowds behind.
- Soon, a fierce storm came up and the breaking waves were causing the boat to fill with water.
- Jesus was sleeping in the back of the boat—and the disciples woke Him up asking Him why He didn't care that they were going to drown.
- Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind and the waves—telling them to be still. Suddenly the wind stopped and there was great calm.
- Jesus then asked the disciples why they were afraid—and questioned their faith.
- The disciples were terrified—asking themselves who is this Man—that even wind and waves don't obey Him.

- **Commentary:** Jesus has all power in His hands—however, we must have the faith to believe this.
- There is no storm that we will ever encounter that Jesus does not have the power to stop—as soon as it is in God's Will for it to stop.
- Never forget—even the wind and the waves obey Him—have faith!

Compassionate Healing 40-45

- Jesus encounters a man with leprosy who begged to be healed telling Jesus if He was willing He could make the man clean.
- Jesus was moved with compassion—and touched him—saying that He was willing and He declared the man healed.
- Instantly the leprosy disappeared—and Jesus sent him on his way telling him not to tell anyone—but let the priest examine you--taking the necessary offering.
- Jesus stated that this will be a public testimony that he has been cleansed.
- But the man went out and spread the word about Jesus—telling everyone what happened—and large crowds surrounded Jesus and He could hardly find a secluded place.
 - Questions: How does seeing the compassion of Jesus and His willingness to heal the man make you feel?
 - Why did Jesus tell the man not to tell anyone he had been healed by Jesus—but still wanted him to go to the priest?
 - Why did the man disobey Jesus and tell everyone what happened? Should he have kept quiet or should he have shared the Word about Jesus?