

## What is the Kingdom Like?

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Mark 4:1-12

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Synopsis:

If the Kingdom of God is at hand, how can we touch it?

It's like this:

“Let me tell you a story . . .”

### I.

#### What is a Parable?

Mark 4:2 “He began to teach them many things in parables”

It's Like . . .

E.g. Soccer in high school (it's like hockey with no skates)

How do great teachers teach? Link from *known* to *unknown*

-comparison

-Sesame Street “One of these in not like the other”

Parable Definition =

A *comparison* in *story* form, told to evoke a *response*

*Parabole* = to throw beside

*Mashal* = to compare

Compare = It's like

Story = “Let me tell you a story”

Respond = Do something!

Gospels have 60 plus parables (OT has many, e.g. Nathan)

-Typical Near Eastern story form

-Most in Luke (Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son)

Mark Parables:

-cluster is chs 4, 12-13

-READ 4:1-2 and 4:33-34 (bookends)

-READ 4:11-13 Compare to Kingdom of God

What is the comparison about?

READ 4:11, 26, 30 = Kingdom of God

What is this? “It’s like soccer . . .”

What are you supposed to do?

RESPOND!

Do something!

Today: Listen, Respond, Bear Fruit

## II.

### **Listen**

Mark 4:3, 9 “Listen . . . anyone with ears to hear, listen”

How does the Kingdom start?

We live in an A.D.D. world: 24/7

-electronic devices: cell phones, iPods, emails, internet

-listening to everything, we hear nothing

How does the Kingdom start?

-It begins with listening to Jesus

-Very hard for Westerners

Listening vs Waiting to respond:

-besides distraction from electronic devices

-people carry on conversations with themselves

-Very, very hard for Westerners

Take home:

E.g. The Mr. Bernie Show: STOP, LOOK, LISTEN

Listen to one thing you hear Jesus saying today

Write it down in your own words

## III.

### **Respond**

Mark 4:12 “So that they may not turn again and be forgiven”

How do we touch the Kingdom?

Information vs Action

- I like information
  - Academic, Internet, Analytic
- Internet: Cate and medical stuff, too much info, no wisdom
- Gospel isn't information
- Gospel is responding to the right thing

Sower Parable: Often called "Parable of the Soils"

- 4 different ways we respond (READ each section)
  - Never hear = birds eat (3-4)
  - Hear and don't count cost = soil shallow (5-6)
  - Hear and listen to things = weeds choke (7)
  - Hear and grow = good soil (8)

Take away:

Thing you heard Jesus say, which you wrote down,  
now do in a way that's possible

IV.

**Bear Fruit**

Mark 4:8 "Other seed fell on good ground and brought forth grain"

What happens when we listen and respond?

Kingdom grows: Three other parables

READ

- 4:21-25 = light goes forth
  - e.g. flashlight with an attitude
- 4:26-29 = grows even though not know it
  - e.g. grow marks on kitchen doorpost
- 4:30-32 = grows from small to large
  - e.g. Sago Palms in backyard

What is the Kingdom of God like?

It's like this. Let me tell you a story

E.g. Lemon Tree:

- killed four
- listened to Jon
- bought one to put in box (did something)
- gonna grow

If you,

LISTEN

RESPOND

You will

BEAR FRUIT