

Getting Started

1. Do you grow vegetables or fruits? Do you enjoy working with plants?
2. How often do you share the gospel with people? Whether with a direct invitation to know Jesus or indirectly through talking about God in your life?
3. Have you ever seen a person come to faith? What was it like?
4. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's sermon did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Digging Deeper

5. Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 123:

Q. What does the third petition mean?

A. "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" means:

Help us and all people to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk.

Your will alone is good.¹

Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,² as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.³

¹ Matt. 7:21; 16:24-26; Luke 22:42; Rom. 12:1-2; Titus 2:11-12 ² 1 Cor. 7:17-24; Eph. 6:5-9 ³ Ps. 103:20-21

For those who get choked out by the desires of this world, what can we do to help them? How can we help ourselves from being led astray?

6. Read Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 and Luke 8:5-8, 11-15. How are these like Mark 4:3-9, 13-20? How do they differ?
7. Read Isaiah 55:10 & 11. How do these verses tie into this parable in Mark? Do they enhance the meaning?
8. Read Mark 4:10-12. Jesus is quoting Isaiah 6:9, 10. Why does Jesus say all of this between the parable and the meaning of the parable?

Application

9. When we spread the word about Jesus our natural hope is that everyone will respond. Not everyone will. There are a lot of reasons for why they might not and it may be as simple as they were not ready to hear the word. Regardless, as we share the word some people will respond and grow in faith and bear fruit. Don't get discouraged, keep sharing the word.

Ross Community Reformed Church

Pastor Shawn Gerbers · October 8, 2017

Parables of Jesus

“Scattered Seed”

And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

Mark 4:8

- For some, the word is _____ from them before they can really _____ it.
- For others, they do not take _____ and eventually _____.
- For others yet, the _____ of this world _____ out the word.
- But some come to _____, grow and bear _____.

Topics: Sowing the word, evangelism, encouragement