



JESUS PLANTS A SEED

MARK

4:35-5:21

Jesus Plants A Seed

- Hands-on experience involves actually doing a particular thing, rather than just talking about it or listening to teaching how to do it
- Woodworking looks easy on YouTube videos but something entirely different when your hand is on the saw

Jesus Plants A Seed

- Think how difficult it would have been for the disciples to grasp the truths Jesus was teaching
 - They were trained fishermen, tax collectors...
 - They had sat under Hebrew teachers that had twisted the Old Testament teachings and Law to fit their own definitions
 - They once saw man lame from birth and asked Jesus, “Who sinned?”

Jesus Plants A Seed

- Here is Jesus teaching the Scriptures as God intended and they are having problems reconciling the two
- Add to that Jesus' teaching on who He is, and their minds just could not contain it, so it was time for some hands-on field experience

Fresh Eyes On Jesus' Miracles

- Too often we segment Scripture into individual stand-alone moments using chapters and verses
- What would happen if we ignored chapter and verse and read it like a scrolling storyboard seeing the big picture and everything that went into it?

Fresh Eyes On Jesus' Miracles

- Neil Armstrong stepping onto the moon's surface for the first time was a huge event
- But we would miss the true effects of that event if we don't recognize the mini-moments that led up to it that still effect our lives today

Fresh Eyes On Jesus' Miracles

- Freeze-dried food
- Liquid cooling and ventilation garments used to help people with multiple sclerosis
- Fireproof materials
- Airless tires made of springy, woven steel wire
- Digital fly-by-wire instead of manual system of pulleys, cables and hydraulics
- Integrated circuit, which packed multiple transistors onto a single silicon "chip."
- MRI and CT Scans
- Insulation in your attic

Fresh Eyes On Jesus' Miracles

- We looked at Jesus healing a man infested with 1,000s of demons, a wonderful miracle
- That was the Neil Armstrong moment of the storyline but what led up to it and what followed will give us a clearer picture of all Jesus was doing
- What was the bigger picture?

Mark chapters 4 and 5 are a single storyline

- **Mark 4:1 NIV**, “1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake.”
 - This leads me to understand Mark is beginning a new storyline that will extend through chapter 5
 - **Mark 6:1 NIV**, “1 Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.”

Mark chapters 4 and 5 are a single storyline

- **Mark 4:1-20** is the Parable of the Sower
 - The Gospel of Jesus is powerful but can be hindered by outside influences – hard path, rocky soil, weed filled soil, good soil
 - **Mark 4:9 NIV**, “9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Mark chapters 4 and 5 are a single storyline

- **Mark 4:1-20** is the Parable of the Sower
 - **Mark 4:9 NIV**, “9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”
 - Hearing ears to open themselves to understand and accept God’s Word as true so that it transforms them
 - Hearing ears to allow the Word to bear fruit to the glory of God
 - It is up to the hearer to decide whether to take the Word seriously and pursue understanding

Mark chapters 4 and 5 are a single storyline

- **Mark 4:21-25** is the Parable of the Lamp Stand
 - **Mark 4:22-23 NIV**, “22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”
- **Mark 4:26-29** is the Parable of the Growing Seed
 - **Mark 4:27 NIV**, “27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.”

Mark chapters 4 and 5 are a single storyline

- **Mark 4:30-34** is the Parable of the Mustard Seed
 - **Mark 4:30-32 NIV**, “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”
- Do you think the disciples grasped all Jesus was teaching?
- It’s time for a field trip

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus calms the storm – Mark 4:35-41**
 - **Mark 4:35 NIV**, 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” – the storyline continues
 - **Mark 4:37 NIV**, 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
 - Mark used the word meaning angry

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus calms the storm – Mark 4:35-41**
 - The disciple's level of fear in this case suggests an abnormal intensity to the storm that made crusty seamen tremble
 - Mark tells us Jesus rebuked the storm and scolded the waves
 - **Mark 4:39 NIV**, 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus calms the storm – Mark 4:35-41**
 - Rebuke - an expression of sharp disapproval or criticism
 - Biblically the word rebuke is used when there has been a willful intent behind an immoral or inappropriate act
 - Jesus used the same word speaking to the waves as He did a demon in **Mark 1:25 NIV**, “Be quiet”
 - Was Jesus speaking to the storm or maybe something behind the storm – think of what’s coming next in the storyline

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus calms the storm – Mark 4:35-41**
 - **Mark 4:40-41 NIV**, 40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” 41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this?”
 - There is no greater question you can ask about Jesus than this

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man – Mark 5:1-17**
 - This is the first time Jesus set foot into this area
 - The moment Jesus' toes touched damp sand a shockwave of fear forced the stumbling demoniac out of his seaside den
 - What the disciples did not know was there was a den of evil in an area Jesus was going into and it needed cleansed so a seed could be planted and grow

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man – Mark 5:1-17**
 - **1st John 3:8b NIV**, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”
 - **Mark 5:15 NIV**, 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man – Mark 5:1-17**
 - The rest of the people asked Jesus to leave their area
 - Normally, Jesus would have gone to another city but this time he left the Decapolis area
 - It suggests Jesus came to this area for one purpose – to destroy the devil's work, plant a seed then return and continue His work He left behind

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man – Mark 5:1-17**
 - **Mark 5:21 NIV**, 21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.
 - Jesus continued His ministry where He had left it
 - As Jesus seemingly came for this single man, he came from heaven for you and me, to destroy the works of Satan on the cross

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus plants a mustard seed**
 - **Mark 5:18-20 NIV**, 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Field trip to the Decapolis Area

- **Jesus plants a mustard seed**
 - Was this man instructed to convince people of who Jesus is?
 - Was he called to justify every one of his beliefs about Jesus or answer everyone's "Why or How" question?
 - He was simply instructed to tell them how much the Lord has done for him and the mercy he received
 - Did it make a difference?

Jesus' return to the Decapolis area

- **Mark 7:31 NIV**, 31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.
 - **Mark 8:1 NIV**, During those days another large crowd gathered.
 - Just a few verses up they asked Jesus to leave and now we see a large crowd gathered around Him listening
 - How? What changed?

Jesus' return to the Decapolis area

- Some seed had fallen on good soil and produced a crop multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times
- What was hidden had been disclosed, the lamp of the Kingdom of God was shining
- The Kingdom was growing on its own and the disciples had no idea how
- The Kingdom started small like a single mustard seed, a single individual who simply told his story and it grew into something amazing

Jesus' return to the Decapolis area

- All just as Jesus defined the Kingdom of God
- I don't think the disciples really grasped Jesus' teaching in Mark 4 until they had seen it in action here

Jesus Plants A Seed

- **1st John 3:8b NIV**, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”
 - The devil’s work is in the lives of individuals
 - He can have strongholds even in Christian lives
 - Stronghold - a place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack

Jesus Plants A Seed

- Emotional strongholds - doubt, rejection, poor self-esteem, pride, stubbornness, a victim mentality, or defeatism
 - Strongholds of fear, anger, pornography, sexual, jealousy, unforgiveness....

Jesus Plants A Seed

- **Philippians 2:10-11 NIV**, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - Even those forces that don't have knees must bow to the authority of Jesus Christ

Jesus Plants A Seed

- All great Kingdom work begins with a single individual planting a single Kingdom seed of truth
 - When it begins you can expect fierce storms of interference from our enemy but be at peace, Christ is in the boat with you

Jesus Plants A Seed

- The storms could be situational – life distractions, busyness
 - Psychological – discouragement, doubt
 - Intellectual – confusion, cynicism
 - Theological – “God doesn’t do that anymore”
- It will initially toss you about, but you must remember God has given you His Holy Spirit to affirm truths found in His Scriptures

Jesus Plants A Seed

- **Hebrews 13:8 NIV**, & Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- If He did it for this Gentile sinner living without hope, he will also do it for this Gentile sinner



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