



In order to Grow up, you need to Listen up!

Mark 4:1-3

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in PARABLES and in his teaching he said to them: ³ “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow”

Jesus came to earth to scatter the truth about God, belief in Him, & repentance that leads to real life.

Despite Jesus’ message & mission...

- Some people truly believed & followed Him.
- Some people didn’t know what to think.
- Other people rejected him.

Parables - Earthy stories with a deeper meaning or short stories using familiar scenes to explain spiritual truth.

Listening requires three things:

1. Time - Make it!
2. Concentration - Think about it!
3. Application - Just Do It!

3 essential elements in this parable: Sower, Seed, & Soil

- Sower - Anyone telling others about Jesus
 - 1 Peter 3:15-16
- Seed - God’s Word; the Gospel

- God has been getting our attention since the beginning of time
- Soil - Represents the condition of the heart
 - A response or lack of response to God's offer of salvation to each person

Application

Practical steps to sowing

- 1 - Start by knowing the Word of God
- 2 - Communicate the (whole) truth about God
- 3 - Leave the results up to God

“Because sin is deceitful and Satan is the ultimate deceiver, as we bump our way through this groaning world, we develop eye problems. We don't see God in the expanse of his glory, and we don't see ourselves with our ongoing need for grace. Our vision problems then begin to shape the way we live. We question God's goodness and the reliability of his word, which makes it hard then to follow him by faith. Before long, the joy of our salvation is gone, we no longer hunger for the nourishment of God's word as we once did, and we have less joy in the gathering of his people.”¹

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up (grow up) in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

¹ Tripp, P. D. (2023). [*Sunday Matters: 52 Devotionals to Prepare Your Heart for Church*](#) (p. 42). Crossway.