

100 days with Jesus

Group Study No: 8
Mark 4:2-9 & 14-20

Introduction

Jesus had a knack of wandering around and thinking about what he saw, and then pulling amazing illustrations or stories out of it.

His Galilean world was a place full of villages and fields, but not the sort of pretty and prosperous countryside that we all love so much. His villages were filled with poverty; fields that were dry and stony. Farming then was part of a desperate struggle to survive. It was in this world that many of his parables were born.

Jesus wants to get across to the people that something new is happening, something is growing; it is the Kingdom. The growing is of

God, but it is not simple and straightforward. There are reverses and failures, but growth is happening, and so he pulls out four, 'see that field over there,' type of stories or parables.

The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:2)

The Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30)

The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds
(Matthew 13:24)

Discussion

1. From your own experience, is it easy or difficult to live the Christian life and share the Christian faith?
2. Read Mark 4:2-9
3. According to this parable, was it easy or difficult to grow crops in Israel where Jesus was brought up? What are we supposed to learn from this?
4. As a church, how do we cope with the disappointment of events that don't go quite as well as we'd hoped, if people don't attend services that we have invited them to, or if people stop attending Church?

5. V4 What might the birds represent in your life?

6. V5 How can we develop deeper soil in our lives?

7. V7 What might the thorns represent in your life?

8. Read Mark 4:14-20

9. V8 Can you think of somebody in your church who has grown significantly over the past couple of years?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Let the seed of Good News
Sink deep into my heart.
Let the seed of the Kingdom
Stir me to scatter seeds
To my friends and family.
Lord Jesus,
Help me to grow
Closer to you
And stronger for you.
Amen.