

**The Gospel of Mark: The Life, Service and Sacrifice of Christ**  
**Jesus Faces Conflict From The Scribes And Pharisees:**  
**The Parable of the Sower**  
**Sept. 28, 2022**  
**Mark 4: 1-20**

**Introduction To The Gospel of Mark:**

**Mark is the shortest of all the Gospels, containing 16 chapters. It is believed to have been written somewhere between A.D. 55-59, during the early part of the Emperor Nero's reign (A.D. 54-68). Around 92 percent of material contained in Mark is also found in Matthew and about 48 percent is included in Luke. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark does not record any resurrection appearances of Jesus. Mark presents Christ as the Messiah, because He is the Son of God, and presents His death as the suffering Son of Man as God's plan of salvation for the world. Mark's Gospel shows how Jesus cared for His disciples and taught them how to care and minister to others, leading them to faith in Christ. The major source of the material in this Gospel was obtained from the preaching and instruction of the Apostle Peter. Mark also had contact with Barnabas and the Apostle Paul (Acts 13:5,12; 15:39.) Many scholars believe that Mark was the first Gospel written and that Matthew and Luke used it as a source document for their writing.**

**Printed Text: Mark 4: 1-20**

**Background Text: Luke 8: 4-10**

**Devotional Reading: Matthew 13: 18-23; 1 Cor. 2:10-18**

**The Parable of the Sower:**

**Mark 4: 1-9**

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**The Purpose of the Parable:**

**Vv. 10-12**

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**The Parable Explained:**

**Vv. 13-20**

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**Small Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus often teach in parables?
2. What is a parable and is this an effective teaching method for today? Why or Why not?
3. Why did Jesus conclude the parable with the saying “He who has ears to hear, let him hear”?
4. What are the key lessons we can learn from this parable?

**Next Week’s Lesson:**  
**Mark 4: 21-43**