

AMBASSADORS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Hallmarks of a Biblical Church Member – Evangelism

Mark 4:26-29

8/17/2025

A. Fruitful Hearers - Mark 4

The good news (1 Cor. 15:3ff; 2 Cor. 5:18–21) is the work of God's grace apart from any self-righteous effort (Ephesians 2:8–9)

1. The parable of the soils (Mark 4:3–20) focuses on the recipients of the gospel, distinguishing between those who would reject the message and those who would genuinely embrace it (v. 20)
2. By contrast, the subsequent parables (in vv. 21–32) highlight the responsibility of the faithful hearer as an evangelist. (cf. Rom. 1:13; Col. 1:3–6)

In this section (4:21–34), Jesus gave three additional parables that expand on that theme. They are not disconnected stories; rather, interrelated illustrations carefully arranged by Jesus to make a divine truth clear (v. 13)

3. Fruitful Hearers Witness Obediently (4:21–23)
Those who have received the light of the gospel are not to conceal it; rather they are to let it shine for others to see
4. Fruitful Hearers Work Expectantly (4:24–25)
Jesus highlighted the importance of serious dedication to the task because of the promise of eternal reward for their faithfulness
5. Fruitful Hearers Wait Dependently (4:26–29) Today's Passage
The farmer is not the power behind the regeneration of the seed, so also the evangelist is not the power behind the regeneration of souls
6. Fruitful Hearers Walk Confidently (4:30–34)
Though the kingdom of heaven at that moment was tiny, like a mustard seed, it would grow to encompass the entire world for generations

B. Fruitful Hearers Wait Dependently Mark 4:26-29

Believers are called to witness obediently and work expectantly, but they cannot produce life. Only God can give spiritual life (cf. John 3:3–8; 2 Cor. 4:5–7) It is a parable comparing the kingdom of God to the mystery of a growing seed

1. The Primary Duty of the Farmer (26-27a)
The kingdom of God = the sphere of salvation
A man (sower) = evangelist ... you and me in this context
Seed = message of the gospel
The soil = hearers

In the spiritual realm, the evangelist (represented by the sower) distributes the message of the gospel (the seed). After he finishes sowing the seed, he goes to bed at night and sleeps.

2. The Mysterious Growth of the Seed (27-28)

a. We can't fully understand how it grows (27b).

The farmer cannot cause the seed to sprout, or new life to form, or even fully understand how it comes to life.

b. We can't make it grow (28a).

-The sower is not involved in the process (John 3:8). (1 Tim. 3:16).

-This is the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5-8; John 6:37-44; Rom.

1:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; 1 Peter 1:23

-Regeneration is only by the Spirit of God (cf. Eph. 2:1-4; Titus 3:5

-Though believers are all called to faithfully proclaim the message, they can take no credit when unbelievers respond in repentant faith (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6-7

-By itself (αὐτοματῇ [*automatē*]). Automatically, we say. Acts 12:10

c. We can't always see it grow (28b).

The point of this parable is simple: in the same way that the farmer is not the power behind the regeneration of the seed, so also the evangelist is not the power behind the regeneration of souls. (1 Cor. 3:6). (cf. Rom. 10:13-17)

3. The Absolute Certainty of the Harvest (29)

Even though the sower did not cause the growth of the grain, he still rejoices in the harvest (cf. 2 Tim. 2:6) whenever the fruit yields itself or permits.

Puts in (ἀποστέλλει [*apostellei*]). The word for *apostle* comes from this verb. See John 4:38:

C. The Implications of the Parable

1. The power of God is in the seed!

- The seed of the gospel (Rom. 1:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:18)
- The seed of the Word of God (1 Th. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15)

2. God alone is sovereign in salvation—*He* causes the seed to grow.

3. Jesus still expects every Christian to sow the seed.

4. Be patient with God to use the Word you've sown.

5. Our sowing ensures the eventual harvest.

6. If the seed has been sown in your heart, Jesus commands you to repent of your sin and believe the gospel (Mk. 1:14-15).

Conclusion: The present age is a time for missions and testimony to the salvation offered in the Word of God. The message will be variously received, but many will prove good soil for the divine seed and will bring forth fruit by the power of God. We can effectively share the gospel with confidence.