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| 1  Mark 4:21-41  07/23/23  Confidence In The King  INTRO:  Spurgeon in a church shouting “Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”  -Custodian heard and saved  Evangelism Video where wet gospel tract in trash can saved someone  Other countless stories similar showing work of kingdom is not based on us but on king  BODY:  Continue in gospel of Mark  Recap:  Q: Why do sinners reject Him?  A: Because of their heart and unbelief  Hard soil, shallow soil, divided soil, and good soil | 2  God is sovereign over salvation but is not chargeable cause of sin and unbelief  -Humanity is responsible for sins and unbelief  God is not author of sin or unbelief but is of salvation  Disciples wonder at this point,  “Should we also conceal the truth to sinners and keep it to ourselves?”  -Because Jesus starting preaching but then  switched to parables  But Jesus counters this notion  Asks obvious rhetorical question “Is a lamp to be put under a basket or under a bed?  -Obviously no!  Christians are to shine their light |
| 3  Matthew 5:14-16  “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”  The nature of light is to be seen and to illumine the darkness. Scripture uses light as a metaphor for itself  Psalm 119:105  “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”  V. 130  “the unfolding of Your words gives light.”  Proverbs 6:23  “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light” | 4  The Scriptures, the light of God exposes us in front of a holy God  Ephesians 5:11  “Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them”  Psalm 36:9  “In Your light, we see light”  Sometimes the church can become too comfortable in holy huddle and not reach out  1 Peter 2:9  “proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”  We are to shine, not hide our lamps  VV. 24-25 Work diligently according to measure of Christ’s gift.  They listen to word and act on them |
| 5  Same principle is present in Galatians 6:7:  “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap, For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”  Point is those who faithfully produce fruit of proclaiming gospel will be blessed with more power, joy, satisfaction and reward.  Those who don’t produce fruit will be burned off  God is gracious with His revelation but He is no fool.  He gives grace and reveals more of Himself to those who truly desire it.  Like James “draw near to God, and He will draw near to you” | 6  Psalm 37:4  “Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.”  Jesus’ intention even more clear in Luke 8:18  “whoever does not have, even what “thinks” he has shall be taken away from him.  There will be those like:  Titus 1:6 profess to know God but deny His power  Matt 7 “Lord, Lord”  -I never knew you, depart from Me, you who  practice lawlessness  Scary aspect of judgment is they don’t even suspect  -Matt. 22 Man with no wedding clothes and man was speechless |
| 7  Matt. 22:13  “Then the king said to the servants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.”  So we see that a true disciple is not to keep the gospel all to yourself but to share and proclaim it to others. We also see that a true disciple will bear fruit and will be blessed with an abundance, but a false disciple is characterized by fruitlessness, and that whatever fruit he thinks he might have will be taken away from him in fire. However we will see that obedience and bearing fruit cannot produce life in others. It is only a work of God.  Read verses 26-29  Jesus continues His agricultural illustration from Mark 4:1-20, Jesus explains growth process of soil  Blade, head, mature grain in head | 8  Farmer has no clue, goes to sleep  Similarly, in salvation we have no clue how that happens  -Being born again is like direction of wind, we  don’t know  We know salvation is work of God, but the intricate details is mystery  -We don’t know exactly how Boeing 737 plane can  float in the sky, 187,000 pounds of metal  How much less can we explain spiritual things if we can hardly explain the laws of physics?  1 Corinthians 3:6  “I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth”  Reality that salvation doesn’t depend on you is a comfort to disciples |
| 9  Disciples may have thought that their responsibility to shine their light and bear fruit means that salvation depends on them  But Jesus countered this notion by giving parable  What this means for you believer is you can get sleep soundly at night  You may have messed up in gospel presentation where you were only able to share half of what you wanted  -You might worry that he is not going to be saved  because you didn’t share the full story  R.C. Sproul invited to bible study in dorm room  Saved by Ecclesiastes 11:3  “whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies.”  Not your typical conversion story | 10  God’s word does not return void  God can use even the sloppiest half-baked gospel presentation to save a sinner  -Doesn’t mean we should not strive to be as  accurate in our gospel presentation as possible  Matthew 3:9  “Do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.”  Point is God is so powerful he can use anything to bring salvation to sinners, even inanimate objects as His children.  You are just called to plant the seed of the gospel and God will take care of the rest  But God still gives us privilege of enjoying the fruits of our labors |
| 11  Verse 29 “But when the crop permits, her immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”  -We get to rejoice in the fellowship of a new believer joining the body of Christ  -Gather around the throne worshipping forever  Verses 30-34  Kingdom will start small  -Mustard wasn’t smallest in world, but in that  region familiar to the audience  The “way” is limited to just a couple hundred followers after the resurrection the kingdom will explode with believers and will provide shade and rest for all peoples of the world  Gen. 12 “seed” will be a blessing to nations  Matt. 16:18 Gates of Hades will not prevail against it  -Church is not on defensive but on offensive  -gates are defense not offense | 12  So we see that the disciples are chosen for salvation not to hide their salvation but to proclaim it. They are to bear kingdom fruit but also to realize that salvation is wholly a work of God and that it does not depend on them. From verses 35-41 we will see that Jesus will test His disciple to see whether they actually understood all that they heard.  As disciples are trying to cross, there is fierce storm  Sea of Galilee was surrounded by mountains in bottom of valley  -Cold air rush down mountain and meet with rising  warm air from waters which created a turbulent,  violent storm  Terrifying experience  Jesus asleep exhausted on boat  -Shows he was perfectly in control  -Deity and humanity perfectly united  -Son of God and Son of Man  V. 38 “Teacher do you not care that we are perishing? |
| 13  V. 39 “Hush, be still”  -Sea became perfectly calm as if it never happened  in first place  -Storm and waves don’t act like that  -If you were to drop a rock it takes a while  No longer feared the waves but Christ Himself  “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”  -Jesus demonstrated power over authority and  nature  Didn’t get the point that if Christ is on their side there is nothing to fear  If kingdom cannot be shaken but grow into victory they have nothing to fear  Instead of faith they feared  -Proper to fear God | 14  This story is not random but intentionally placed after the parables to demonstrate if Jesus had authority over nature, then there is nothing to fear  We can have confidence in the king  In fact Jesus said in Matthew 28 that all authority on heaven and earth has been given to Him and therefore on that basis we can make disciples of all nations  But the disciples were still too dull to understand.  -They struggled in their faith  How about you?  -Do you fear like disciples?  Mark wants you to have an unshakable confidence that the kingdom work you are doing is not vain but powerful  It may not look powerful on the surface, but it will be harvest more than you can imagine |
| 15  You may say passing comment about the gospel to a stranger and it may save them  You may be discourage in ministry like Elijah not realizing that there are 7000 who have not bowed the knee to Baal  Do not fear because Eph. 5:8  “you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of the Light!”  There is no darkness that the Son of God cannot overcome  Glory of Chris is so brilliant that sun is like candlelight in comparison  Psalm 139:12  “Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.” | 16  Maybe you have not trusted in Christ.  Maybe you are in awe of Him and fear Him but you don’t believe in Him.  If you have not trusted your life to Christ, right now currently you cannot see the light of Christ.  2 Cor. 4:4 “the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”  Maybe you are scared to follow a faith that is unseen. But in order to be saved, you must believe Christ as who He is, the Son of God.  Hebrews 11:6  “Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” |
| 17  You must have faith that He is the Son of God who has come to save you from your sins and to grant you everlasting life.  John 1:4-5  “In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overtake it.”  John 14:21  “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will disclose Myself to him.”  Love Jesus, follow Him in obedience and Jesus will reveal His glory and majesty to you. Let’s pray  Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:58 |  |