

Third Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Mark Carlson
“Who is Jesus to You?” (Part I)

Mark 4:33, 34, “With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.”

Interpreting Parables as “Earthly Stories cast alongside a Heavenly Meaning”

In the context of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed - Some don’t hear at all, some hear briefly, some hear him as if He is only a man and not God in human flesh, and some hear and continue to hear as the Word keeps growing in them as a seed – Jesus is the Seed of God and Jesus’ Word is the seed of God’s Word working in us and the world.

John 12:24, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

Isaiah 55:10, 11, “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word that goes out from my mouth; it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

The Kingdom is being ruled now even when it appears nothing is happening or that His Word is not working; the gospel is continuing to work, because it is God’s Word

The Kingdom is being consummated and completed according to Jesus’ Word – The Words of Jesus will be fulfilled since He’s the King of the Kingdom not just a good story teller, good at telling stories or a good teller of stories with good stories to tell

Jesus is the King of Kings and His Word even when it is quietly working in the early beginnings is powerfully working, and if allowed to continue to work will produce much fruit – 30, 60, and 100-fold!

Points to Ponder: *Talk with another person about how Jesus is much more than a good story teller with good stories to tell. Share with them Who Jesus is to you as your Savior.*

Next Week: *Read the Gospel of Mark, especially Mark 4:35-41 to prepare for the next message in the sermon series, “Who is Jesus to You?”*