

Week 1 - Read Mark 4: 1 – 34

Consider...

1. On a scale of 1 – 10, 10 being 'absolutely clear', how would you rate your understanding of the parable if you:
 - Read only the parable itself? (Mark 4: 3 – 9)
 - Read the context and Jesus further words (Mark 4: 1 – 20)

2. If you could choose to be a soil, which one would you choose? Why?

3. What is life like for people who are represented by each type of soil? Try to phrase your answer in two ways...
 - The attitude of your heart towards God
 - In terms of daily life. That is, what would your life look like if you were soil 'X'? What would someone watching your life see?

Week 2 - Read Mark 4: 35 – 5: 43; Mark 14: 26 – 31 AND Mark 16: 1 – 8.

Consider...

1. Mark has some great stories where Jesus makes seemingly hopeless situations turn out well. We see this in miracles. Four examples to consider are in Mark 4 and 5 (calming the storm; the freeing of the man possessed by a legion of demons; the woman with bleeding and Jairus' daughter). How much do you think this happens in your life, and the lives of Christians around the world?

2. Some of the earliest manuscripts end Mark's gospel at verse 8. After reading Mark, if the story did END at verse 8, how might you, as a reader, feel?

3. What ideas do you have about the relationship between 'fear' and 'faith'?