



Sermon Outline
February 27, 2022
Pastor Bryan Myers

Worth A
Thousand Words

Mark 4 & 5

Mark 4:1-3 - Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around Him was so large that He got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. **He taught them many things by parables**, and in His teaching said: "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed."

A Parable is a _____ of spiritual truth.

Mark 4:11 - He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables."

** A parable is not some kind of secret code but rather a contemplative expression of spiritual truth.*

*** Parables aren't obstacles as much as they're _____.**

Mark 4:9 - Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

Some possible reasons why you may not want to hear:

1. *Uninterested*
2. *Life is working "okay"*
3. *It's too unbelievable*
4. *Didn't like what's been heard before*
5. *Don't want to feel judged*
6. *Don't want to give up autonomy*
7. *Don't trust God*

*** You decide how much of the truth you want to hear and _____.**

*** Jesus told parables to cause rumination in order to provide _____.**

Mark 4:34 - He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

*** Parables require the intentional work of examination and _____.**

*** Listening to Jesus requires _____ listening.**

Matthew 16:5-6 - When they went across the lake, the disciples forgot to take bread. "Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

*** Listening to Jesus requires _____ questions.**

Mark 9:32 - But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it

*** Listening to Jesus is a good _____ of whether one is truly a follower of Jesus.**

** Why is it easier to do almost anything else other than read the Bible? Because to receive its true value, you have to desire it enough to seek it. We're so used to being entertained that we don't always like having to make the effort necessary to receive our spiritual nourishment.*

*** Understanding the Bible requires desire, time, exposure, repetition, and Spirit-led _____.**

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

*** How we listen to Jesus will have a major impact on _____ and _____ we grow spiritually.**