

One of the most important questions we need to ask ourselves seriously is this: "Am I truly willing to listen to Jesus, hear what he says, and do what he asks of me?" The parables are powerful learning stories that plant the word of Jesus deep in our hearts. But, we must be committed to hearing what is said so that it takes root, grows, and produces fruit. We determine the type of soil we offer to the Good News of Jesus. So let's ask the Father to help us hear Jesus' words and put them into practice.

**TAKEAWAY**

## SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones  
Sunday, August 11, 2024



**Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)**

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*

### Discussion Questions—Mark 4:3-4

1. Who is the Sower?
2. What is the seed?
3. What does the path represent?
4. Who the fowls of the air represent?
5. What can we learn from this parable?

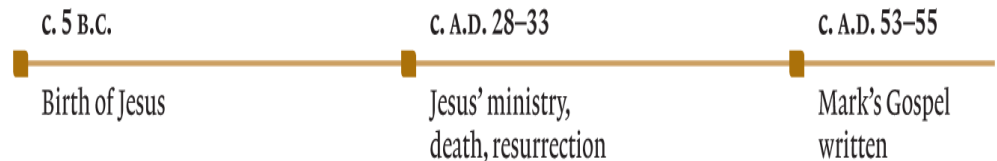
Week 15: Learning Mercy (Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

Week 16: Healing a Hard Heart (Mark 3:1-6)

Week 17: Satan Casting Out Satan (Mark 3:22-30, Matt.12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23)

Week 18: The Parable Of The Sower (Mark 4:1-20)

### Week 19: The Enemies Of The Word (Mark 4:3-4)



### Outline

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

ANSWERS: 1) listen to this; 2) sow seed; 3) beside the road; 4) Satan

# Sermon Notes

## AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

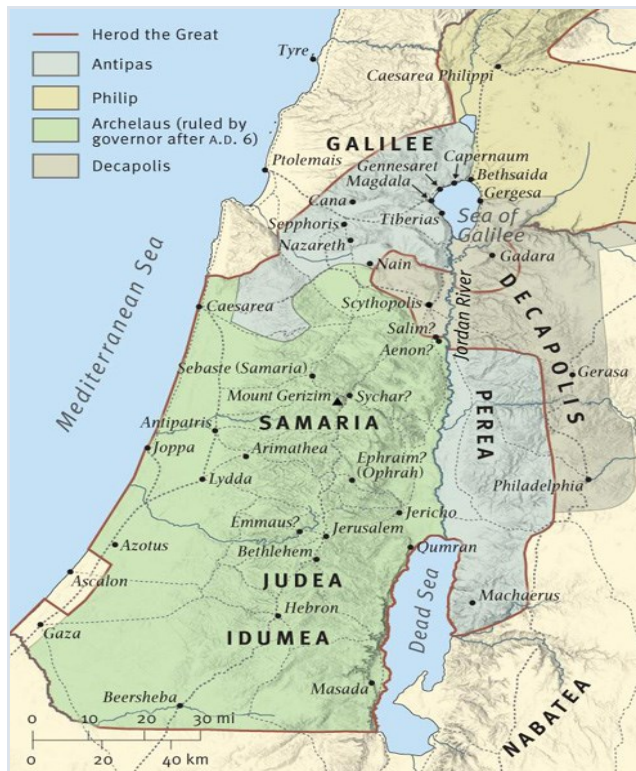
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

## THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



- 1) Jesus begins this teaching with a declarative announcement: “\_\_\_\_\_!” The word “listen” here in the Greek is *akouo*. It is this idea of hearing with intention so that those who are able to receive understanding can truly perceive with true spiritual insight.
- 2) This parable does not place much emphasis upon the sower. Simply what the sower does, and that is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The first soil is said to have landed “\_\_\_\_\_”. 1st soil condition:
  - Hard-compacted soil
  - Impenetrable
  - Seed can't be planted
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.