



## **“Listen!”**

### **Mark 4:1-34**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus again began to teach beside the sea. A crowd so large gathered together around him that he entered into a boat on the sea and the whole crowd was on the land close to the sea. <sup>2</sup>He was teaching them in many parables and in his teaching he was saying to them, <sup>3</sup>“Listen! Look! A gardener went out to scatter seed. <sup>4</sup>It happened in the scattering of the seed that some fell along the way and the birds came and consumed it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on the rocks where there was not much soil and they sprouted immediately because the earth wasn’t deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up they were scorched and they were dried up because they had no roots. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns rose up and choked the plants and they produced no fruit. <sup>8</sup>Finally, other seed fell into the good earth and was producing fruit, rising up, and growing, and began bringing forth thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” <sup>9</sup>He was saying, “Whoever has ears to hear, listen!” <sup>10</sup>When he was alone, the ones around him, along with the twelve, were questioning him about the parables <sup>11</sup>and he was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the reign of God, but to those who are outside everything is in parables. <sup>12</sup>*So that seeing they might see but not perceive, and hearing they might hear but not understand, otherwise they might turn back and be forgiven.*” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Have you not comprehended this parable? How then will you learn any of the parables? <sup>14</sup>The gardener scatters the word. <sup>15</sup>There are the ones where the word is scattered along the way: when they hear, the adversary immediately comes and removes the word that has been sown in them. <sup>16</sup>There are the ones scattered upon the rocks: the one who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy <sup>17</sup>but have no root in themselves and are temporary, for when trouble or persecution occurs because of the word they immediately stop following. <sup>18</sup>Others are the ones scattered among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word <sup>19</sup>but the worries of the world—the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for everything else—enter in to choke the word and it bears no fruit. <sup>20</sup>Those that were scattered upon the good soil are those who hear the word, embrace it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” <sup>21</sup>He was saying to them, “Is a lamp to be put under a basket or a bed, but rather instead to be put on a lampstand?” <sup>22</sup>Something that is secret only to be told, and hidden only to come to light that it might come into clarity. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, listen!” <sup>24</sup>He was saying to them, “Watch out for what you listen to! With the measure you measure with, will be used for you. Yes, you will get even more. <sup>25</sup>For whoever has, it will be given to him, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.” <sup>26</sup>He was saying, “Thus the reign of God is like a person scattering seed upon the earth, <sup>27</sup>and he sleeps and he rises night and day, while the seed sprouts and grows. How? He does not know! <sup>28</sup>The earth bears fruit by itself, first the stalk then the head, then the full head of grain. <sup>29</sup>When the grain is ready he immediately *sends in the sickle since the harvest has arrived.*” <sup>30</sup>He was saying, “How might we imagine the reign of God? Or with what parable might we present it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when scattered upon the earth is the smallest of all the seeds of the earth. <sup>32</sup>But after it has been planted, it rises up, becomes larger than all the garden plants, and produces great branches so that *the birds of the heavens are able to nest in its shade.*” <sup>33</sup>With many such parables he was speaking the word to them in accordance to what they were able to hear. <sup>34</sup>He would not speak to them without parables, but in private he was explaining everything to his own followers.

**4:3** *What did Jesus exhort the people to do?*

*According to 4:9, what is necessary to follow this exhortation of Jesus?*

**4:10-12** *What is the secret of the kingdom of God?*

*To whom has the secret been revealed?*

*From whom is it hidden?*

**4:13** *Why is Jesus speaking in parables?*

*Why did Jesus explain the parables only to His disciples and not to everyone else?*

**4:14-19** *Why do people leave the Church?*

**4:20** *What is significant about the thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold yield?*

**4:21** *What is Jesus' point about the lamp?*

**4:26-32** *How do Jesus' parables about the growing seed and the mustard seed help us understand his warning, "watch out for what you listen to"?*