
WHAT'S THE SECRET?

The Message of the King Mark 4:1-41

Lesson 4

1. Describe the setting of this important sermon of Jesus. Where does it take place? Who is there — specifically what kinds of people do you think make up the crowd?

2. Look at the Parable of the Sower in 4:3-8 and 4:13-20. Talk about what it means: Who is the sower? What is the seed? What do the soils represent?

3. What is the Secret of the Kingdom? (Mark 4:11)

4. Note the Old Testament reference in verse 12. It comes from Isaiah 6:9-10. What is Jesus saying about the purpose of the parables that he uses in his preaching?

5. What did Jesus mean when he said in verse 13 that this parable was key to understanding all parables?

6. Think about the parable of the lamp and what Jesus says in verse 22. What are the things that are hidden in the story and what will be revealed or come to light?

7. What Jesus says in verses 24 and 25 seems shocking as well. What is he talking about? What will be taken away from those who don't have and to those who have given more?

8. The Parable of the Growing Seed in Mark 4:26-29 is a strange little parable. What does it mean?

9. What does the Parable of the Mustard Seed mean? (Mark 4:30-32)

10. In the story of the storm on the lake, what seems strange to you?

11. After all of the miracles that these men have seen, why do you think this event makes them ask the question, “Who is this man?”

12. Think about the application of this little story. When we go through the storms of life how is it like “Jesus in the boat?”

13. For those who want to take this a step further, read the story of Jonah in the Old Testament and compare it to this story of Jesus in the boat. What should we learn from this connection?