

Bible/College Class Notes – Studies in Mark's Gospel – Lesson 99

Gains and Losses In Following Jesus

This week – The Lord Jesus teaches that only one type of heart will gain and receive the Gospel.

**He (The Lord Jesus), said,
“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Mark 4v9.**

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Mark 4v1-9 (The Parable of the Sower)	
Monday	Mark 4v10-19 (3 types of unreceiving heart)	
Tuesday	Mark 4v20-33 (The heart which receives the Gospel)	
Wednesday	John 14v1-18 (The Comforter, the Holy Spirit promised)	
Thursday	John 14v19-31 (The Holy Spirit will teach you all things)	
Friday	John 16v1-16 (The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth)	
Saturday	Romans 10v1-17 (Faith comes by hearing God's Word)	

Important Thought for us Today: Do we hear and respond? We so often hear instructions and either don't understand them or prefer to go our own way. The disciples heard the parable but did not understand so they wisely asked the Lord to explain. We too must ask God the Holy Spirit to quicken to life our spiritual hearing so that we respond to the Word of God with understanding - to bring us to repentance and belief. **(Romans 10 v 17).** *Coming to Bible Class and Church, hearing the Gospel, reading our Bibles, and even feeling the guilt of our sins are all good - but if we do not respond with faith and repentance, trusting that Jesus Christ alone can save us, then we are in a very dangerous place. Great open sins ruin a soul but so too does hearing without believing, listening without repentance, being convicted of our guilt without trusting only the Lord Jesus Christ. We all shall be judged according to how we have responded to the Gospel. To hear of the way of salvation and yet neglect it, is one of the worst sins we can commit. (John 16 v7-11) Come to the Saviour now.*

Hymn 345 is the Lord's call to us - How will we respond?

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| 1. The Saviour calls; let every ear
Attend the heavenly sound;
May doubting souls dismiss their fear;
Hope smiles reviving round. | 2. For every thirsting, longing heart,
Here streams of blessing flow;
And life, and health, and bliss impart,
To banish mortal woe. |
| 3. Dear Saviour, draw reluctant hearts,
To Thee let sinners fly,
And seek the bliss Thy love imparts,
And take and never die. | 4. May sinners hear Thy mercy's voice,
Thy gracious call obey;
May hearts be turned to heavenly joys,
And come without delay. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Profit (Gain) or Loss? – The Parable of The Sower.

- **The Lord Challenges Us – What is our Response to His Call to Repent?**
 - **Jesus speaks of the good seed falling on four different types of ground:**
 - **The Well-trodden Path** – The seed is exposed and eaten before roots grow.
 - **The Stoney Ground** – Shallow soil, but too many stones stop root growth.
 - **The Thorny Ground** – Too much competition from thorns and weeds.
 - **The Good Ground** – Well prepared soil, right for germination and growth.
- **The Disciples Hear but Ask the Lord to Explain the Spiritual Meaning:**
 - **The Sower is Himself** - or anyone who teaches the only way of forgiveness.
 - **The Good Seed is The Word of God, The Gospel** - The Lord invites us to hear the **Good News** and respond in repentance and faith. Simply put, He died on the Cross to take the punishment for our sin so that we can be forgiven and saved for ever; to live for Him now, and to enjoy Him throughout eternity.
 - **The Path** – Represents the heart that 'hears' but Satan quickly plucks the seed away like a bird, so that there is no time for the truth to move the conscience. This is the heart of the majority of people who have hard hearts which never seriously 'take in' the Gospel of God's forgiveness.
 - **The Stoney Ground** – At first the Gospel truth is gladly received and the conscience moved. But when troubles come the truth shrivels up and dies. This was merely head knowledge, not a sincere heart experience.
 - **The Thorny Ground** – The Gospel seed takes root but the interests of this world crowd in and soon take over. A worldly 'Christian' is not a true one.
 - **The Good Ground** – This heart, having been prepared by the Holy Spirit to become 'good ground', hears the truth, sincerely receives it, and so brings forth the spiritual fruit of true repentance, faith, and obedience.

The heart that hears and responds spiritually gains salvation.

True Christians, however young, put the Lord first in everything and are not easily overpowered when difficulties arise; they are not tempted by the sinful attractions of this world but strive to live obediently so as to bring honour to their Saviour's name. Their lives bring forth Christian fruit.

We must ask ourselves, "Which type of ground describes my heart?"

Only the last type brings us salvation and eternal peace with God.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart to be the 'good ground'.

The Lord Jesus said, ***"And these are they which are sown on ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."***
Mark 4v9.