

Weekly Study Guide

April 18th, 2021

MONDAY: Read the Parable from Sunday Mark 4:1-20. Of the seeds that are cast which ones catch your attention the most? Which of the seeds bothers you the most? Why do you think? Which seed seems most prolific in our country? In light of that reality what might God be calling us, as a church, to focus upon?

TUESDAY: Parables are a way of teaching that has a particular point that can't be made as well (or at all) in another avenue. Read the parable again in Mark 4:1-20 and be thinking of what that point might be. How would you express that point so an 8-year-old would understand? Give it a try 😊

WEDNESDAY: After the parable is told Jesus reflects on the why he teaches in parables. Read again Matthew's version of this explanation: it is the longest. Read Matthew 11:1-15. Then read Ezekiel 12:2 and notice a similar theme. Ezekiel and all the prophets were part of Jesus' deep and rich scriptural foundation. What might be the reason behind the thought expressed by Jesus and Ezekiel? What faith building happens by someone not knowing the secrets of the Kingdom?

THURSDAY: Read Romans 12:17-21 and Proverbs 25:22 and the Parable in Luke 8:4-15. Heaping burning coals on someone's head isn't for punishment or cruelty but to speed a person's turning to God. Our posture as people of faith who 'do not see, or do not hear, or understand' to use the language of the parable is to help them see, hear and understand. Paul in Galatians 6:1 reminds us of our aim. Can you think of three things to never do when trying to help someone see, hear and understand?

FRIDAY: Read Mark 4:1-20 again, but this time be thinking of questions Jesus might have been hoping would be asked, or conversations initiated. Is there anything in the parable or the explanation that gives us insight as to the casting of the seeds? Seed falls in 4 different places. How can the seeds you are in charge of be the good seed?