



ST. FRANCIS
IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Tuesday Bible Study

Week 4

Mark 4:1-34

October 4, 2022

1. The seed that falls on good soil not only thrives, it bears a great amount of grain (Mark 4:8). How should we put this in practice in our faith lives? It is great to be *nourished* by the Word, but how do we know if our lives are bearing grain?

2. Bonus: What do you think Jesus means when he quotes Isaiah in Mark 4:12? (Note: there is not one right answer here—Biblical scholars spend a lot of time debating this!)

3. What “thorns” (Mark 4:18-19) get in the way of you hearing the Word and bearing fruit? How do/will you respond to them?

4. In Mark 4:21-22, Jesus has a saying about lamps and light. Can you think of other Biblical references to light or lamps in the Old or New Testaments? How do we use light or lamps in worship or for prayer?
 - a. What do these have in common? What does this suggest to you (there is no wrong answer here!)

5. The light of the Word is always shining, but not everyone sees or responds to it. What are some things that keep people from seeing the Light of Christ?

6. In Mark 4:30-32 Jesus uses the image of a tree to describe the Kingdom of God. What other images of trees or shrubs can you think of from the Old or New Testaments?
 - a. What do these scriptural images have in common with Jesus' imagery? How are they different?

7. Mark tells us that Jesus teaches the word "as they were able to hear it." (Mark 4:33). What do you think is meant by that?
 - a. How do different people, in different times and places, need to hear things differently? Does this influence how we proclaim the Gospel?

 - b. How do we ensure that the same Gospel message is being proclaimed across diverse times, places, and to people of different ability?