

STUDY 3 - The Coming Kingdom (Mark 4:1-34)

What do you think is the most pressing issue for people in our society today?

As people battle with this issue:

- ! *what are they trying to gain for the future?*
- ! *what are their chances of success?*

Chapter 4 of Mark's Gospel has Jesus beginning to explain the issue that matters most for the future – what the kingdom of God will be like, and why only some will enter it.

Read Mark 4:1-20

1. Jesus has been preaching “the gospel of God” (1:14-15). What does the parable of the sower say about potential responses to the announcement of this news?

2. Why might Jesus speak in such a way that people will *not* hear or understand (vv. 11-12)? c.f. Isa 6:8-13; Rom 9:14-18

3. What are the some of the dangers and distractions in your life that could be preventing you from listening as closely as you ought to God's Word?

Read Mark 4:21-34

4. What do the various parables in these verses lead you to expect about the kingdom of God?
 - vv. 21-22
 - vv. 26-29
 - vv. 30-32

Implications:

- ! What does the gospel of Jesus say to our world that is filled with hopes and dreams for a better future?

- ! Why will some not listen? What is it about the kingdom that they will not like?

- ! What might keep you from the kingdom? How can you prevent it?

Give thanks and pray

Pray for that God's Word would fall on good soil (i.e. fruitful hearts) at Wednesday night's Parish Dinner.

Pray for our upcoming AGM this Sunday – for the election of godly representatives to serve in the various roles.

Ask God for help to understand the importance of his kingdom; to put aside the things that might distract you from it.