

REFLECTIONS ON: Mark 4

After reading the scripture, reflect on the following questions:

- From the last couple of chapters, what have we learned about the crowds and why they are following Jesus at this point? What is He doing to draw such large crowds?
- What is a parable? What was Jesus' purpose in teaching the crowds in parables?
- Does anything about this parable bother you? Was this the typical farming practice in the first century?
- To whom is Jesus willing to reveal the "secret of the kingdom of God"? Why is He intentionally secretive with the crowds?
- If you hadn't read Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower, how would you explain this parable in your own words?
- What is Jesus' point about the light and standard of measure? What is the application to your life as a follower of Jesus?
- What does the Parable of the Growing Seed tell us about our role in evangelism? What is God's role?
- How does the Parable of the Mustard Seed give us hope that God's kingdom will advance?
- Jesus explained everything to His own disciples. How does that inform your agenda as a disciple and as a disciple maker? Was Jesus' secretive teaching temporary? Or should we be teaching the same way today?
- How does the story about the fierce windstorm reveal Jesus as human and as divine? Why do you think Jesus' disciples were terrified to discover Jesus' power over the wind and waves?
- What is the most remarkable thing you learned about Jesus in this chapter?
- What does this chapter inspire you to do to be more like Jesus?