

Can You Hear Me Now?

The Gospel of Mark Series – Part 13

Scripture text – Mark 4:1-20

Introduction

- God is speaking to our _____ situation through Mark’s Gospel.
- The issue today is how well we are _____.

A Sudden Shift

- About a year into his earthly ministry, Jesus made a sudden & dramatic shift: namely, he began to teach exclusively through _____.
- A parable is an analogy or _____; the word literally means “*to place _____.*”
- The Gospels record a total of _____ parables.

Jesus’ Intention

- Jesus’ intention was to separate the _____ interested from the _____ interested. The latter would be _____, while the former would be left alone.
- At first glance, Jesus seems to be saying that he wants to _____ understanding and keep people from salvation.
- Instead, the quote from Isaiah means the parables are a type of _____ upon casual, superficial listeners.

The Explanation

- Whenever God speaks, there are 4 basic responses:
 1. Some respond _____
 2. Some respond _____
 3. Some respond _____
 4. Some respond _____

Implications

- For sowers:
 1. Don't _____ the soil.
 2. You are not _____ for the success or failure of your sowing; your only responsibility is to be _____.

- For listeners:
 1. You are responsible for the kind of _____ you are.
 2. The condition of your soil is not _____, but requires constant attention.

Seize the Day

- Perhaps one reason for the pandemic, and the resulting stay-at-home orders, is that God's people haven't been _____ to him.
- This is an _____ to seize the day and become an eager, active listener.