

marked

LISTENING WELL

Chris Calvert, Executive Pastor
April 3, 2016

Mark 4 - "Listen!" (v. 3)

Listening well means that we:

- Pay close attention to God's Word
- Respond quickly in obedience

Four possible responses when listening to God's Word

(vs. 1-20):

- No response (vs. 4, 15)
- A shallow, emotional response (vs. 5-6, 16-17)
- A half-hearted response (vs. 7, 18-19)
- A fruitful response (vs. 8, 20)

The Key: "*Consider carefully what you hear*" (vs. 21-24)

The Dimmer Switch Principle:

When we respond to the light that we have, God gives us more.

When we don't, He takes away the light we already have.

When we listen well:

1. God works in our lives without us noticing (vs. 26-29)
2. God turns small things into amazing things (vs. 30-32)

NEXT STEPS:

- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- I will read or listen to God's Word daily and respond in obedience to what it says.
- I will pray daily that God's Word would produce fruit in my life.



Lesson Aim: To have a heart that is responsive to God's Word.

Prayer: Open in prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to continue to show you what it means to bear fruit and be obedient to God.

1. Why do you think that Jesus often taught the crowds using parables?
2. **Read Mark 4:3-20.** In the first parable, Jesus refers to "good soil". What is it that we can do, or should do, to be "good soil" for growing in Christ?
3. What is it that can hinder us from being "good soil" or ruin our "harvest"? What is our "harvest"?
4. **Read Mark 4:21-25.** What does this passage mean to you? What is the warning that is included in here?

5. This past Sunday Pastor Chris referred to the "Dimmer Principle". What is this principle? What is an example of it? How have you seen this at work in your own life?
6. **Read Mark 4:30-32.** How are we to plant "mustard seeds" throughout our walk with Christ? What are the "mustard seeds" that we are planting?
7. How can we test our "soil" to see if we are growing deep roots? Does our obedience to Christ factor into this "soil test"? If so, how does it?
8. What is it that we can do to improve our soil and produce more fruit?

Weekly Memory Verse:

Galatians 5:13. You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.