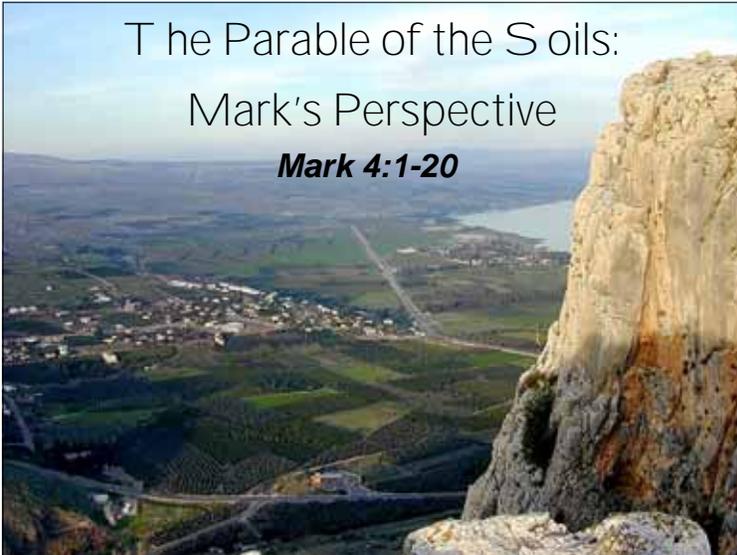


The Parable of the Soils: Mark's Perspective

Mark 4:1-20



Mark's Content

- 16 chapters
 - Mark 11:1—16:13
 - one week
 - the Passion Week
 - Mark 3:20—5:20
 - one day



Jesus' Ministry Timeline

- 26 AD
 - Spring – beginning of John's ministry
 - Summer – baptism of Jesus
 - Fall – temptation
- 27 AD
 - Winter – end of John's ministry/beginning of Christ's
 - Spring – 1st Passover of His Public Ministry
- 28 AD
 - Winter – First Disciples Called
 - Summer – Galilean Ministry Commences
 - Fall – Appointment of the 12; Sermon on the Mount
- 29 AD
 - Winter – 1st public rejection; parabolic ministry begins; final Galilean Campaign
 - Fall – Later Judean Ministry
- 30 AD
 - Winter – Ministry in and around Perea
 - April – Passion Week
 - April 7 – Crucifixion
 - April 9 – Resurrection

I. The Setting of the Parables (1-2)

- Matt. 13:1-2 - "That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach."
- 1a – "He began to teach again by the sea."
 - Cf. 2:13; 3:7
- 1b – And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land."
 - Large crowds before (1:33; 2:2, 15; 3:7-8, 10).
 - Now, a **very large crowd**.
 - The 12, other followers; most of those who had been in the house that morning.
 - Luke 8:4 - "When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him."



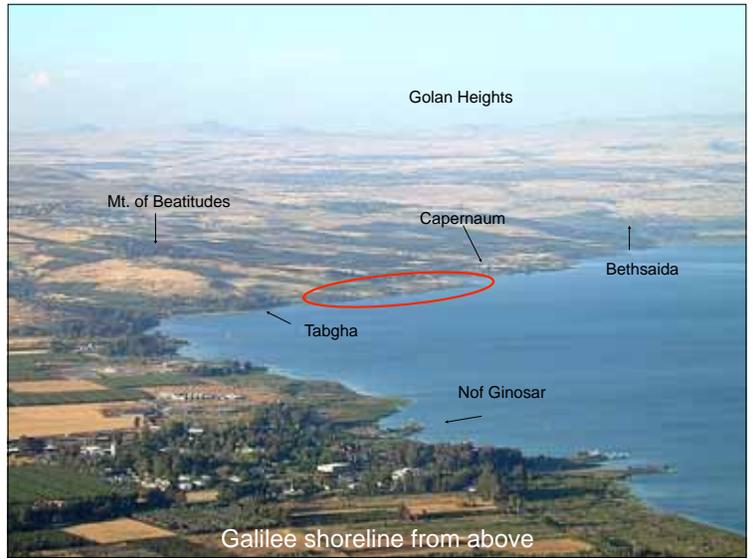
First century boat model at En Gev



First century boat model at En Gev



First century boat model at En Gev



Galilee shoreline from above



Sea of Galilee northern shore



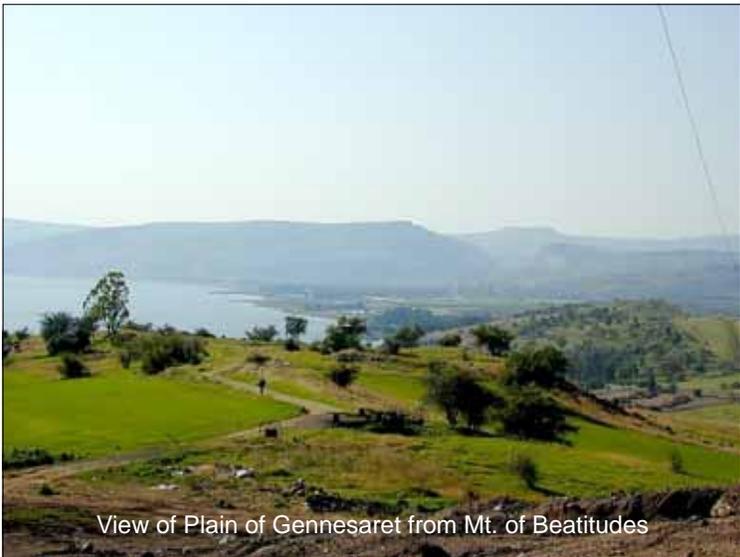
Sea of Galilee at En Gev



Mount of Beatitudes



Mount of Beatitudes



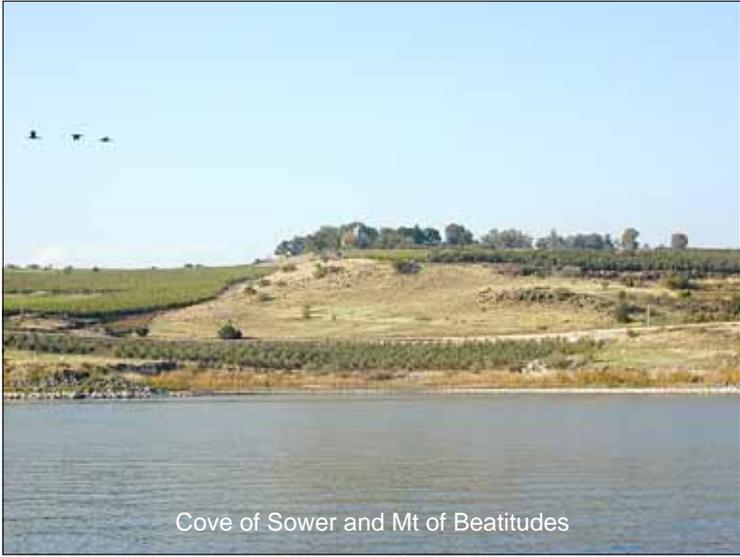
View of Plain of Gennesaret from Mt. of Beatitudes



Cove of the Sower - satellite



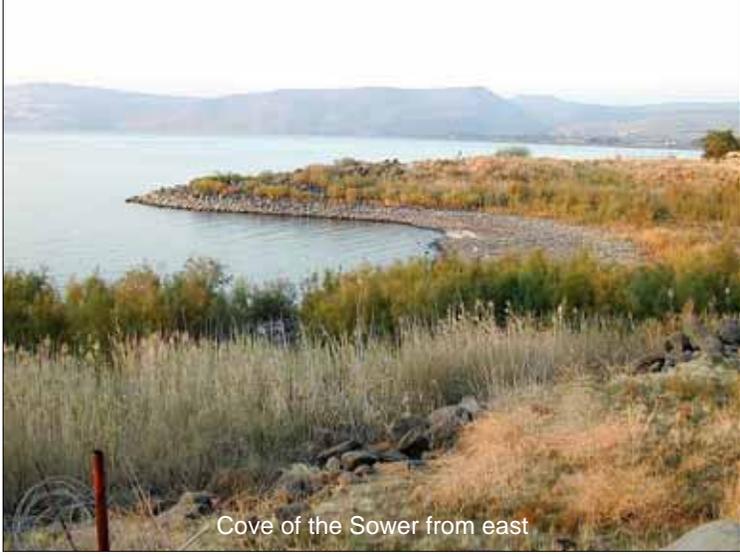
Cove of the Sower aerial



Cove of Sower and Mt of Beatitudes



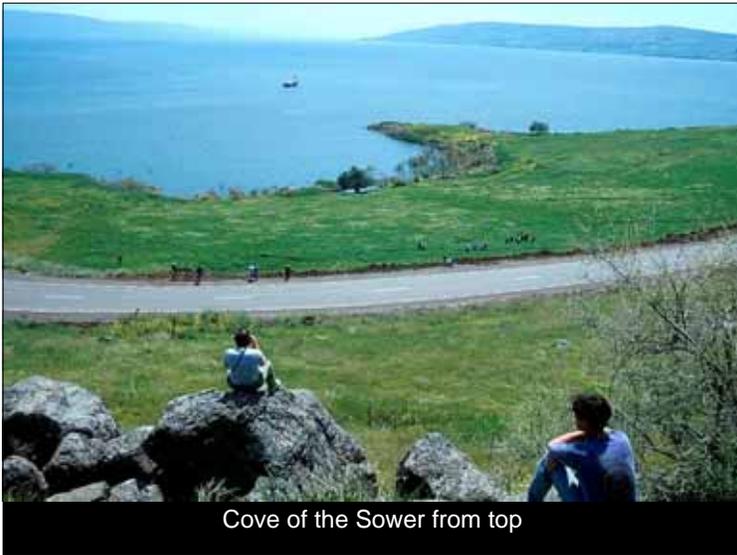
Cove of Sower and Mt of Beatitudes from boat



Cove of the Sower from east



Cove of the Sower from waterline



Cove of the Sower from top

I. The Setting of the Parables (1-2)

- **1** – "He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land."
- **2a** – "And He was teaching them many things in parables
 - Mark only records 3 of the main parables.
 - The Sower (3-20)
 - The Seed (26-29)
 - The Mustard Seed (30-32)
 - Matthew includes seven.
 - Cf. [4:33-34](#)

Parables

- Transliteration of the Greek word *parabole*
- Literally means, "something thrown alongside"
- A comparison or an analogy (3:23)
- LXX
 - Illustrative stories, proverbs, epigrams, riddles, and pictorial sayings.
- The gospels: over 60 parables
 - Matthew & Luke include most.
 - Mark fewer.
 - John records none.
- Most common subject: the kingdom of God (cf. 1:14-15)

I. The Setting of the Parables

- **1** – "He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land."
- **2** – "And He was teaching them many things in parables and was saying to them in His teaching,"

II. The Parable of the Soils (3-9)

- 3 - "Listen to *this!* Behold, the sower went out to sow."



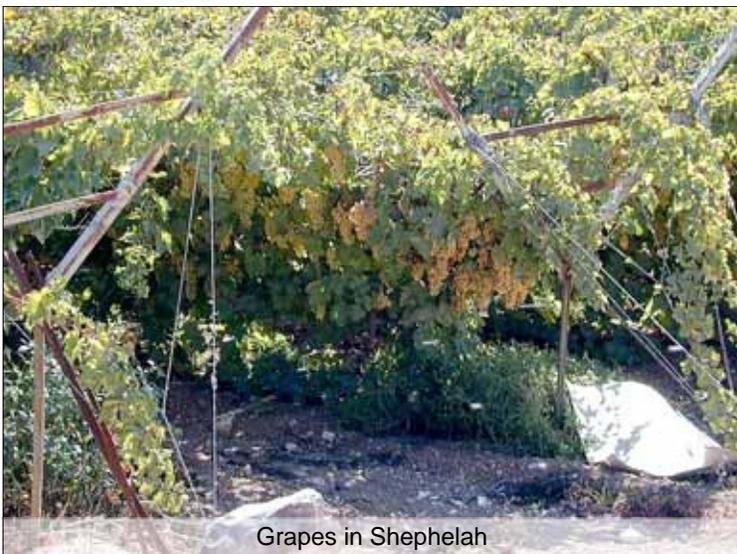
Barley field near Kiriath Gat



Barley in field near Kiriath Gat



Grapevines below Lachish



Grapes in Shephelah



Olive tree at Neot Kedumim



Woman harvesting olives in Shephelah



Olive harvest in Shephelah



Wheat field at harvest time by Bet Guvrin



Wheat field near Bet Guvrin



Man plowing with mule



Plow with metal tip

II. The Parable of the Soils (3-9)

- **The Hard Soil (4)**
 - 4 - "as he was sowing, some *seed* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up."
- **The Rocky Soil (5-6)**
 - 5a – "Other *seed* fell on the rocky *ground* where it did not have much soil.
 - 1) 5b – and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil."
 - 2) 6 – ""And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away."

II. The Parable of the Soils (3-9)

- **The Hard Soil (4)**
- **The Rocky Soil (5-6)**
- **The Thorny Soil (7)**
 - 7 - "Other *seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop."
- **The Good Soil (8)**
 - 8 - "Other *seeds* fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

The Main Point: Hearing

- 3 – "Listen!"
- 15, 16, 18, 20 – the responses when the Word is heard
- 24 - "Take care what you listen to."
- 9 - "And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.""
 - Cf. 23 - ""If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.""
- The most common saying of our Lord
 - Matt. 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mark 4:9, 23; 8:18; Luke 8:8, 18; 14:35.
- Grows out of...
 - Jer. 5:21 - "Now hear this, O foolish and senseless people, Who have eyes but do not see; Who have ears but do not hear."
 - Ezek. 12:2 - ""Son of man, you live in the midst of the rebellious house, who have eyes to see but do not see, ears to hear but do not hear; for they are a rebellious house."
- An invitation to weigh all the implications of what He had taught.

"He who ears to hear, let him hear!"

- **1) For unbelievers**
 - An invitation to truly hear and be converted.
- **2) For believers**
 - Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22
 - **1)** It's a reminder that what has been said has a deeper, more profound meaning that can be grasped with a simple reading.
 - **2)** It's a warning that simply hearing is not enough.