

Grow

October 11, 2021

Mark 4:1-12

Growth involves pain.

A lot of people want growth to be easy or painless. They talk about growth as though it is something that feels nice. What they are actually describing is the result of growth. They are associating the aftermath of growth with itself. The two are different. Growth is painful. The life that is lived after growth is joyful.

What was a time when you experienced growth and it was painful?

4 Jesus began to teach beside the lake again. Such a large crowd gathered that he climbed into a boat there on the lake. He sat in the boat while the whole crowd was nearby on the shore.(Mark 4:1)

1) Whatever Jesus touches _____ . (grows)

THINK IT OVER

In what ways has Jesus grown your mind or heart in your life? How did this happen?

2 He said many things to them in parables. While teaching them, he said, 3 "Listen to this! A farmer went out to scatter seed. 4 As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path; and the birds came and ate it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. 6 When the sun came up, it scorched the plants; and they dried up because they had no roots. 7 Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked the seeds, and they produced nothing. (Mark 4:2-7)

2) Seeds that don't have the right _____ don't grow. (conditions)

THINK IT OVER

How do you feel like you have the right conditions for growth in your life right now? How not?

8 Other seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. Upon growing and increasing, the seed produced in one case a yield of thirty to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of one hundred to one." 9 He said, "Whoever has ears to listen should pay attention!" (Mark 4:8-9)

3) The seeds that find the right conditions bring a far bigger _____ than those that don't. (harvest)

THINK IT OVER

What do you think the harvest might look like in your life if it happened?

10 When they were alone, the people around Jesus, along with the Twelve, asked him about the parables. 11 He said to them, "The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you, but to those who are outside everything comes in parables. 12 This is so that they can look and see but have no insight, and they can hear but not understand. Otherwise, they might turn their lives around and be forgiven. (Mark 4:10-12)

4) The result of understanding the parables of Jesus is total _____. (transformation)

THINK IT OVER

What's one way that you'd like to turn your life around?