

## Campfire Tales: Stories the Disciples Told: Parables

Mark 4:1-20

After you read Mark 4 take a look at Matthew 13:1-23. If you have time compare and contrast the similarities and differences between the two.

Review with each other the definition for parable.

Parable – a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

You may have heard or used the phrase – “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”

Do you have a garden? What do you grow?

Do you grow from seed, transplant, separate or divide healthy plants, or some combination?

If the Word of God is the seed – think about when and how that seed was planted in your mind and heart. (don't use the Sunday School answer that the Holy Spirit was with you at the time you were conceived – but yes, that's true)

Was the soil (environment) you were living in good soil? How was it rocky or weedy? Was your home soil hardpacked and difficult to penetrate?

Was the soil of your heart easy for the seed to settle in or was it challenging?

What was your germination time frame? Did the seed of the gospel root and grow rapidly or did it need to rest a while? What the growth spurts or dormant times look like?

Think about FRC. As much as we are humanly able to do, does FRC provide good soil for cultivating the planting of the seed of the Word of God?

How do we plant? Are we better at starting with seed (new believers), dividing like some perennials (nurturing the offspring), or growing by transplantation (receiving already mature believers from other greenhouses)?

How well do we weed? How well do we water?

Pray for FRC and the following of God's Will as to how we handle the seed we have been entrusted with.