

# Listen Carefully

## Mark 4:21-41

### Into the Lesson:

By way of review, spend some time in the following verses to get a sense of the passage of time from the beginning of Jesus' ministry through the calling of the Twelve to where we are in our study today:

Mark 1: 9-10, 13, 14-20, 24, 28, 35, 38-37, 45-

Mark 2: 1, 13-14, 23-

Mark 3: 1-2, 13-19, 20-

Mark 4:1-

Although we can't know the exact time frame, how do you think the "group dynamic" would have developed in the relatively brief time the Twelve had been together?

Would the "fishing buddies" have had an easier time connecting than the others?

Do you think there was a bit of an eye roll every time Peter spoke?

What about Judas (wonder where he landed in the "soil continuum")?

### Into the Word:

Even though Lane has chosen to go "small ball" reread Mark 4:21-41, consider how it was that Jesus, a former carpenter, travelling with a group of fishermen a tax gatherer and others chose a lamp, seeds, soil and sowing as a jumping off place for his parables.

How do you think a people who had been steeped in Jewish custom and teaching, would respond to having their understanding of the Kingdom of God refined to a single point of light (vv. 21-25)?

How about the idea of a single seed (not letting Lane off)?

How does Hebrews 4:2 confirm Lane's statement, "...that's actually the story of the entire Bible"?

How does John 1:1-5 combined with Mark 1:21 provide an interesting setting for Jesus' bit of sarcasm?

Considering His ability for sarcasm, do you think Acts 1:6 provided Jesus with a chance for bit of an "eye roll"?

Respond to Lane's comments regarding Mark 4:24.

Does this become a "where the rubber meets the road" admonition?

### Into Life:

Combined with Lane's comment from last week regarding a renewed commitment to "sound doctrine", what are the indications that "misplaced expectations" play a critical role in our culture?

How hard will John 8:24 be for some people to hear?

For some of us Mark 1:23 is better translated "read my lips".

What are some of the ways we can "hear" the word?

Have you ever considered how the "group dynamic" of Valley Christian Church can help those are coming to grips with the correct expectation of the Kingdom of God?

What needs to be done to gain an audience with those who have tried to come to a "mishmash of truth" from their own experience?

How does that impact on the importance of our gatherings?

Is there a point where we need to just live out John 14:6?

How does that translate into our day-to-day interactions?

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6