

Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

The Purpose of the Parables

Mark 4:21-25

Pastor Ben Hall – Saanich Baptist Church

August 10th 2025



Gospel Received (Implanted)	Identity	Purpose	Belonging
Gospel Believed (Growing)	Christ's work in me	Christ's work around me	Christ's work through me
Gospel Displayed (Producing)	Faith	Hope	Love

Mark 4:21-25 — What is the **“MORE”**? FREEDOM that comes from FAITH / SECURITY that comes from HOPE / SIGNIFICANCE that comes from LOVE

1) DOUBT — Questioning God's truth and/or it's relevance

- PROMISE: ***“If you continue in my word, you really are my disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31–32, CSB)***
- QUESTION: Where am I doubting God's truth because of my circumstances or cultural voices?
- REMOVAL: Name the specific doubt before God and bring it into conversation with Scripture and trusted believers.
- REDEEMED: Faith replaces suspicion, and there is a settled confidence in Christ's sufficiency even when all questions are not answered.

2) DISTRACTION — Turning to other things to disengage from God

- PROMISE: ***“You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13, CSB)***
- QUESTION: *What is most often crowding out my attention to Christ's work?*
- REMOVAL: Identify one recurring distraction, and identify the reason for it. Knowing the reason, pray and release it to God.
- REDEEMED: Attention shifts from constant noise to an awareness of God's presence, towards peace replacing restlessness.

3) DEFENSIVENESS — Self-justifying actions or unbelief

- PROMISE: ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9, CSB)***
- QUESTION: *When I am corrected, do I confess honestly, or do I defend and explain away my actions?*
- REMOVAL: Stop mid-defense, confess plainly, and entrust your protection/reputation to Christ.
- REDEEMED: Humility and openness mark your relationships, and correction becomes a moment of growth rather than shame.

4) DIVISION — Withdrawing from relationships where vulnerability is expected

- PROMISE: ***“God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy.” (Psalm 68:6, CSB)***
- QUESTION: *Where am I avoiding community because of fear or past hurt?*
- REMOVAL: Take one small but deliberate step back toward Christian community, ie. Engage a friendship, ask/answer a question.
- REDEEMED: Relationships become a source of mutual encouragement, trust is rebuilt, and God's grace is experienced through His people.

Date: August 10th, 2025

Series: Follow

Title: The Purpose of the Parables

Primary Passage: Mark 4:21-25

Secondary Passage: James 1:21-25

Big Question: What is required for spiritual growth?

Big Idea: Spiritual growth requires both knowledge of God and knowledge of self, therefore we recognize the doubts, distraction, defensiveness and divisions that reside in our hearts.

Keywords: Gospel, Faith, Hope, Love, Light, Hear, Doubt, Distraction, Defensiveness, Division.

GOING DEEPER Questions:

When did you experience the unconditional love of God? What made believing or showing love difficult?

Consider the chart on the reverse page. Are you able to make the connection between the process of spiritual growth and what it produces? How is Christ's work in us connected to identity and faith? How is Christ's work around us connected to purpose and hope? How is Christ's work through us connected to belonging and love?

Read Mark 4:21-25. What are the things that God reveals? How should this be a comfort? How is it a confrontation?

Consider the Four "D's" within the heart? Which one is most familiar to you? How does each restrict spiritual growth?

How are honesty and humility necessary to experience more of God's blessing in freedom from faith, in security from hope and in significance from love? Where do you see the need for those things within your spiritual lost friends/family? What's a story you could tell of how God has increased your faith, hope and love?