Sermon Sowing The Gospel: The Parable, The Purpose and the Promise **Mark 4:1-20 TN 1-6-2019**

**Point 1: The Parable of the Sower v** 1-9(heading)

**POINT 2: Purpose of the Parable** v10-12 (header in your bible).

**POINT 3: Promise of the Parable** v13-20

**Promise #1:** GOD’S PURPOSE WILL BE FULFILLED.

**Tools to help:**

* ‘What is the Gospel?’ pamphlet
* 10 questions to turn conversations toward the gospel (back)
* Christmas Message ‘Can I Have the Gift?’ (www.rgcmd.org)

**Promise # 2:** God’s grace has been revealed to you.

**-** v 11 ‘**to you** has been given the secret to the kingdom of God…’

“The citation of Isa. 6:9 does not mean that “those outside” are denied the possibility of belief. It indicates that they are excluded from the opportunity of being further instructed in the secret of the Kingdom solong as unbelief continues. That the Kingdom has come in an initial phase in the presence of Jesus can be discerned only through faith, which is to say by the grace of God. Jesus’ presence, therefore, means disclosure *and* veiling; it releases both grace *and* judgment.”

*Gospel of Mark, p 159 by William Lane*

“The feature of the parable which provides the key to its understanding is the active sowing. This element is essential to the comparison being developed: The kingdom of God breaks into the world even as seed which is sown up on the ground. In the details about the soil’s there is reflection on the diversity of response to the proclamation of the word of God. But- this is not the primary consideration. The central point concerns the coming of the kingdom of God.

God is in the center of the action.”  
*Gospel of Mark, p 154 by William Lane*

Helpful Questions to turn conversations towards the gospel:

1. When you die, if God says to you, "Why should I let you into Heaven?", what would you say? Are you interested in what the Bible says about your answer?
2. If you were to die tonight, where do you think you would spend eternity? Why? Are you interested in what the Bible says about this?
3. Do you think much about spiritual things?
4. How is God involved in your life?
5. How important is your faith to you?
6. What has been your most meaningful spiritual experience?
7. Do you find that your religious traditions answers your questions about life?
8. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs? If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it? Well, the Bible says . . . .
9. To you, who is Jesus?
10. I often like to pray for people I meet; how can I pray for you?