Understanding the Gospel

Mark 14:1-20

Outline

1. **Hearers of the Word vs. 1-12**

   True listening involves engaging with what is being said and willing to receive and apply what has been shared.

   Those who realize the identity of Jesus, the reality of the kingdom, and have chosen to live for Jesus will be given understanding. Those who continue in their disbelief, will lack understanding because of their unwillingness to listen.

   Question:

   What are the preconceived notions about God that sway people today from listening to God's Word?

2. **Complacency Versus Discipleship vs. 13-20**
   When God's word impacts one's life, each person will either become complacent or accept His word as truth and embrace the way of discipleship.

   Complacency:
   - **The Word is Snatched Away:** When a person hears about Jesus but refuses to accept the good news of Jesus; allowing disbelief, their preconceived ideas of Jesus, and their pride to be their life focus.

   - **The Word without Deep Roots:** The word becomes ineffective in one's life when we lack discipleship; having the lack of knowledge, the false expectations we lean on, and allowing our life to be driven by emotions. The result: The joy of faithfully embodying kingdom life in Jesus fades away.

   - **The Word being Choked:** Human temptation is to shape the gospel into our own image. Making Jesus the kind of Messiah we want him to be and transforming his kingdom after our own agendas. Motivation: money, power, fame, prosperity... etc.

   Discipleship:

   Those who hear the word, embrace Jesus as the Son God, who live by the true character of the kingdom, and they give themselves to the way of discipleship which provides fruitfulness, as God divinely blesses them.

Questions:

- When looking at our discipleship pathway, what area of discipleship do you need to deepen your roots?

- What are the signs that someone has altered the gospel to fit the agenda that they would like to pursue?

- What kinds of fruit does God provide when we give ourselves to the way of discipleship (embrace to live for Christ)?

PARTICIPATORY WORSHIP

BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE

EMPOWERED PRAYER

THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM

COMMITTED FELLOWSHIP

SACRIFICIAL SERVICE