

Today's Message: "Postcards From The Lake"

¹ *Jesus began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. (Mark 4:1 ESV)*

If you were guaranteed that in the next four weeks Jesus would answer your prayer for restoration in your life, what would you pray?

² *And Jesus was teaching them many things in parables.*

³ *"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."* ⁹ *And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear..." ¹¹ And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables." (Mark 4:3-9, 11 ESV)*

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Revelation is when Jesus teaches us truth that we otherwise wouldn't see clearly on our own.
(see Matthew 8:34; 16:17; 26:7-10; Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:54; 13:4; 18:15, 25-26; 19:7; 22:49; John 4:27; 9:1-3)

¹¹ *"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
¹² For now we see through a glass darkly." (1 Cor. 13:11-12 KJV)*

In order to gain revelation we need to adjust our **pace** and our **diet**.
(see Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:6-7; Heb. 5:13-6:1; 1 Cor. 14:20; Col. 1:28)

"Jesus did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything." (Mark 4:34, ESV)

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What is your restoration prayer for this series? If in a small group, share it and some of the reasons behind the prayer.
2. Read the parable of the sower in Mark 4 as well as Jesus' explanation. How does it relate to our ability to spiritually see truth? Of the three obstacles to seeing clearly (the enemy, weeds, lack of roots) which is more likely to be an obstacle for you? Why?
3. Can you think of a time in your own life where you didn't see something clearly but now in hindsight you can see it? Why is it so difficult for us to see what's happening spiritually?
4. Of the two needs discussed, in order to have more clarity, how are you doing with each? What is the LORD telling you about your pace and your diet

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