

"Mark" My Words: Along the Footsteps to Fruitbearing

1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:

3 "Listen!"

Mark 4:1-2

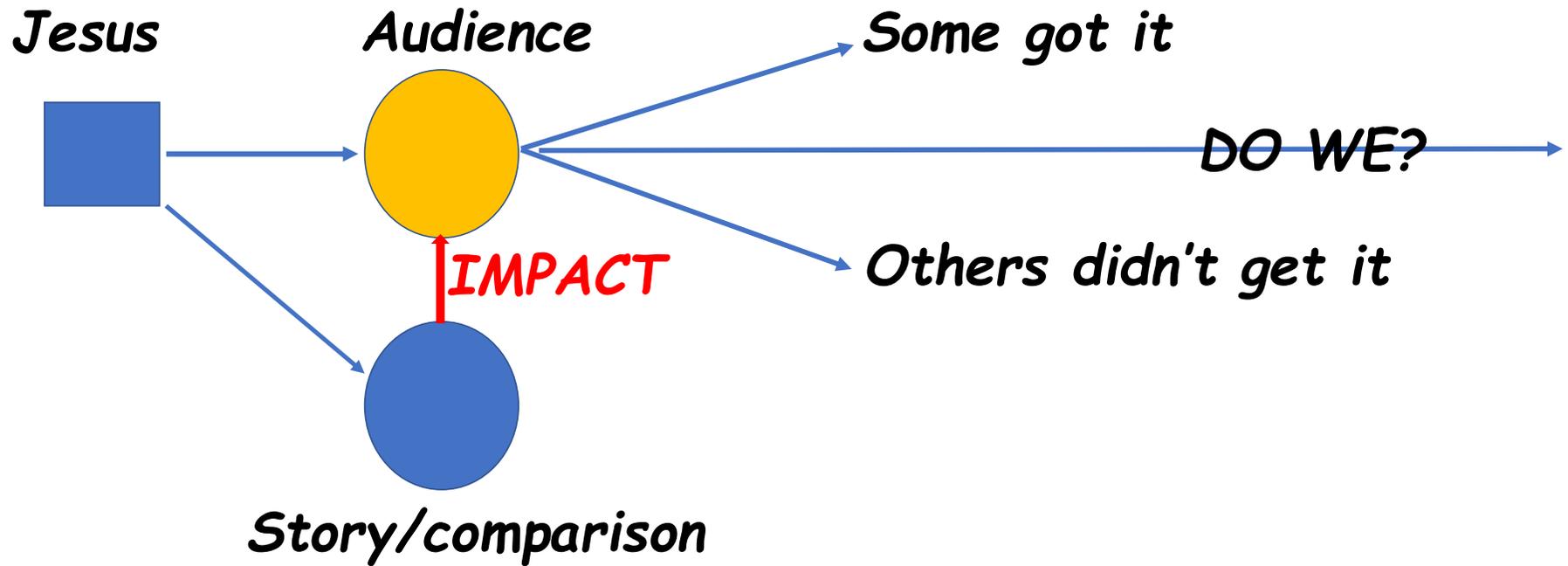


The Upper Story Themes

- *GOD*
- *JESUS*
- *OT PROPHECY*
- *HIS AUDIENCE(S)*
 - *The Crowds*
 - *The "Locals"*
 - *The "Jerusalem" Representatives*
 - *The disciples and those around Jesus*
- *THE LOCALE*

Isaiah 49:5

Mark 3:22

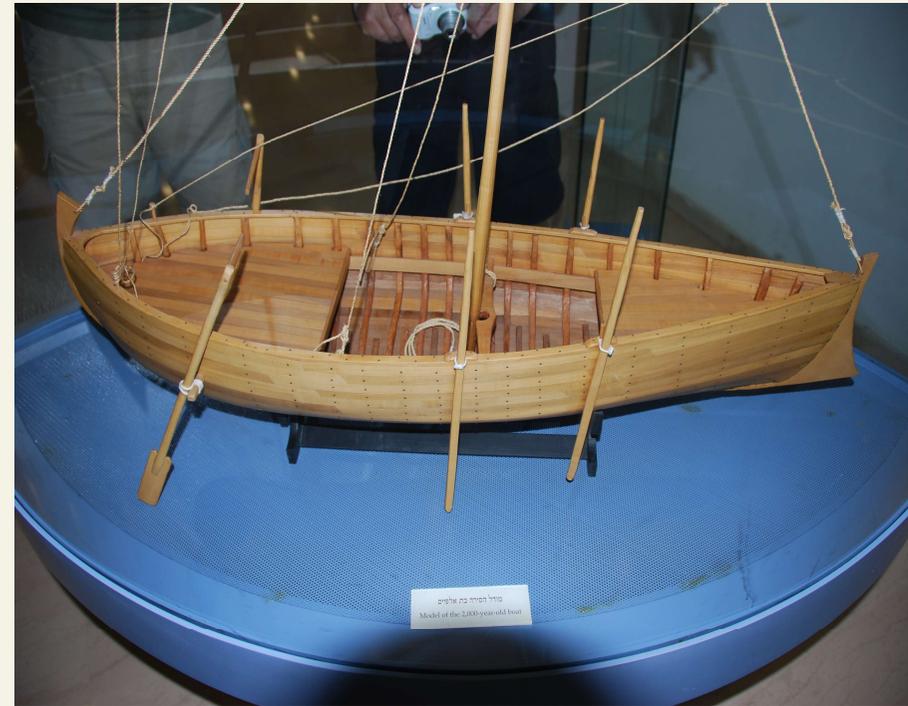


Parable: a short story or comparison to elicit an intended response by the hearers

The Upper Story Themes

• **JESUS' TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

- **Expression**
 - *Son of Man, Lord of the Sabbath*
 - *Healer, and forgiver of sin*
- **Engagement**
 - *Listen, He who has ears to hear*
- **Elaboration**
 - *The Kingdom of God*
 - *Its secrets, characteristics, timing.*
- **Expectation**
 - *The appropriation of the learnings*





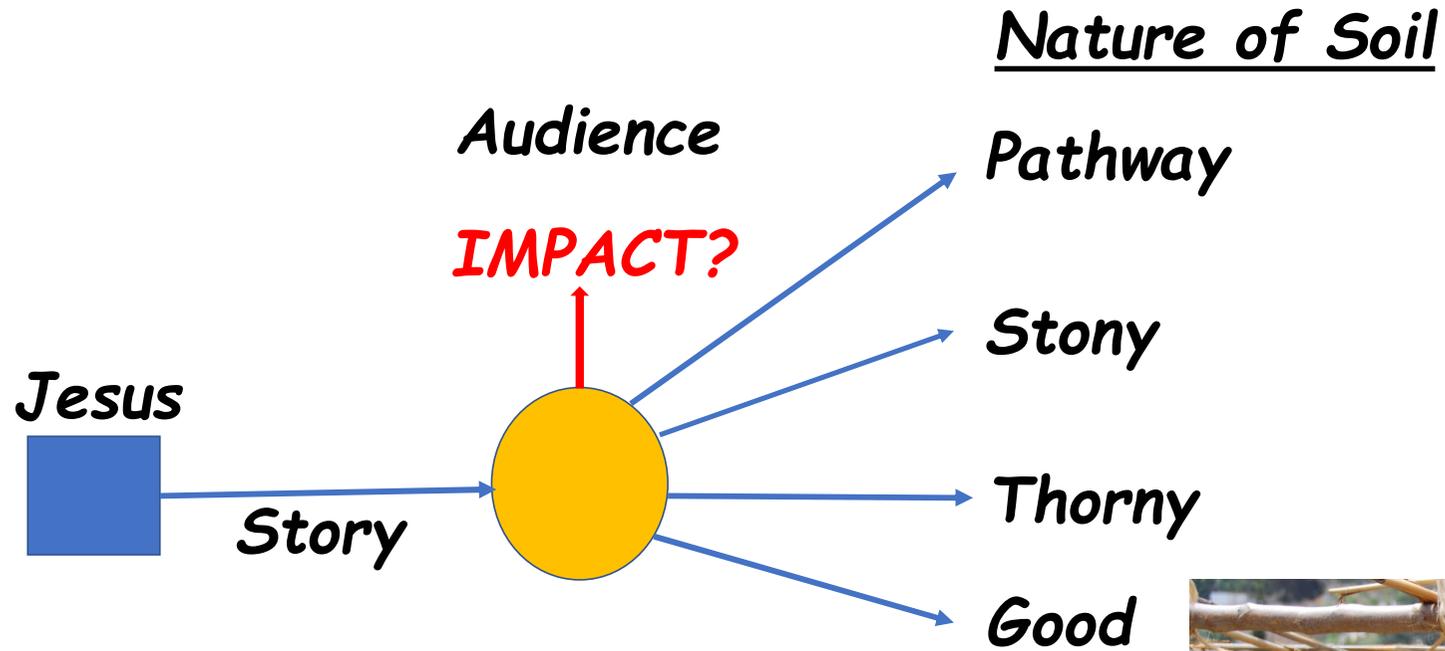


Parable 1. The farmer sows the seed

Mark 4:3-9

- 3 **"Listen!** A farmer went out to sow his seed.
- 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.
- 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.
- 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.
- 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.
- 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."
- 9 Then Jesus said, **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."**





Why do you teach in parables?

Mark 4:10-12

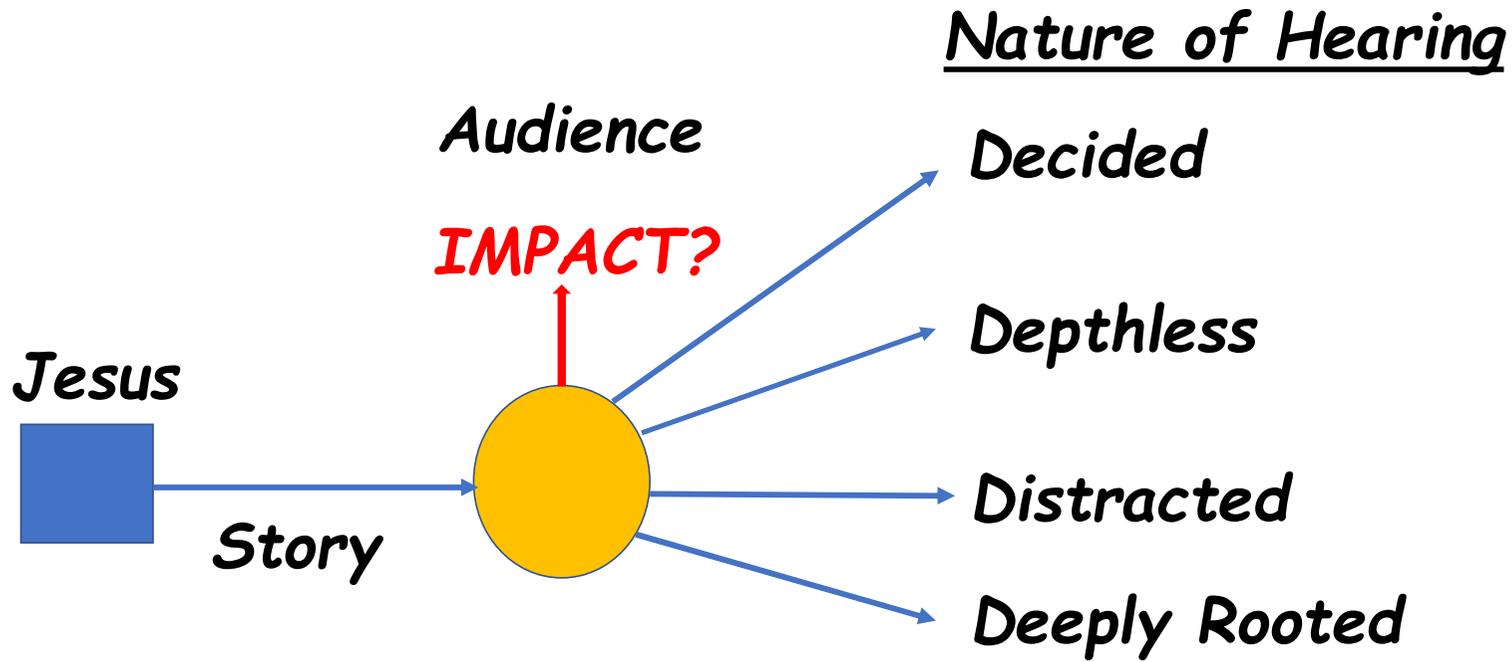
- **10** When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.
- **11** He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables
- **12** so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"",



From Jesus Word to Fruitbearing

Mark 4:13-20

- 13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"
- 14 The farmer sows the word.
- 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.
- 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.
- 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
- 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;
- 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.
- 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."



		<i>Heart</i>	<i>Fruitbearing</i>
14 The farmer sows the word.	Jesus	Determined	Expected
15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.	Some	Decided	Dead to God
16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.	Others		
17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.		Depthless	Fall away from God
18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;	Others		
19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.		Distracted	Unfruitful
20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."	Others	Deep Rooted	Fruitbearing

<i>Parables in Mark 4</i>	<i>Audience</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Immediate Context</i>
Sower & soil types	Crowd, region/Jerusalem	Story	Jesus called Beelzebub
Lamp on a stand	The 12 and other disciples	Comparison	Kingdom of God
Growing seeds	The 12 and other disciples	Story	Kingdom of God
Mustard seed	The 12 and other disciples	Comparison	Kingdom of God

<i>Initiator</i>		<i>Key Action</i>		<i>Desired Result</i>
Sower	Jesus	Sows the Seed	Spreads His Word	Fruitbearing
You	The Light-Jesus	Lights the Lamp	Shines His Light	Light Shared w Others
Sower	Disciples	The Seed Grows	Ripens	Resultant Harvest
Sower	Jesus	Mustard Seed	Becomes the Largest	Lodging, Protection

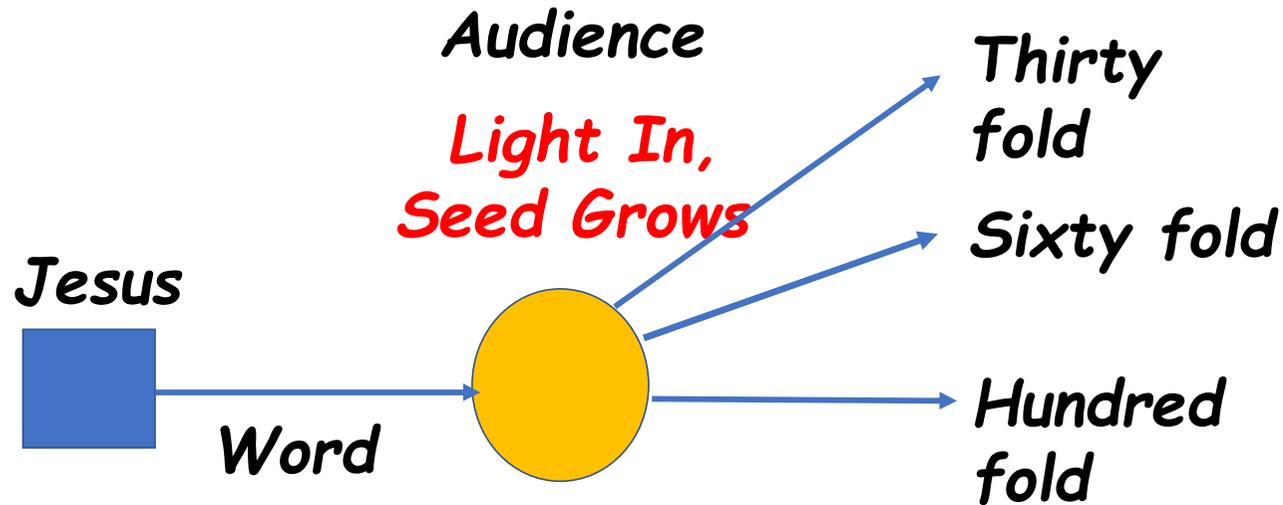
Parable 2: The Lamp on the Stand

Mark 4:21-25

- 21 He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand?"
- 22 For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.
- 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."
- 24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more.
- 25 Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."



The Increase of Fruitbearing



The Principle of Sharing As Given

With the measure one has and shares with others, the Lord will give over and above; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him.



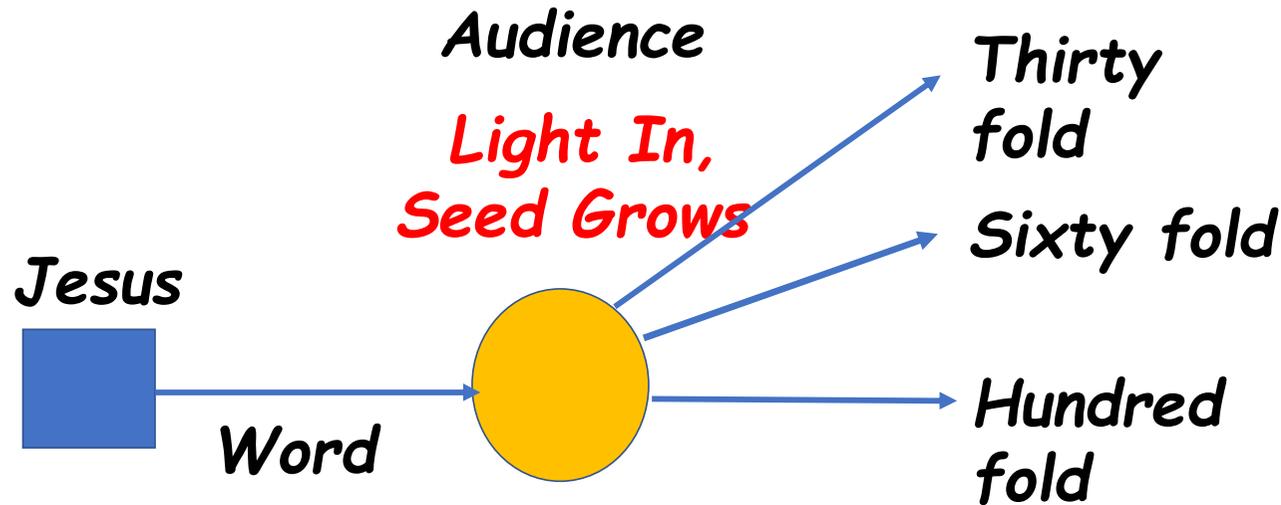
Parable 3: The Growing Seed

- 26 He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.
- 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.
- 28 All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.
- 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29



The Increase of Fruitbearing



The Principle of Sharing As Given: OUR PART

The Principle of the Lord Gives the Increase: GOD's PART

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

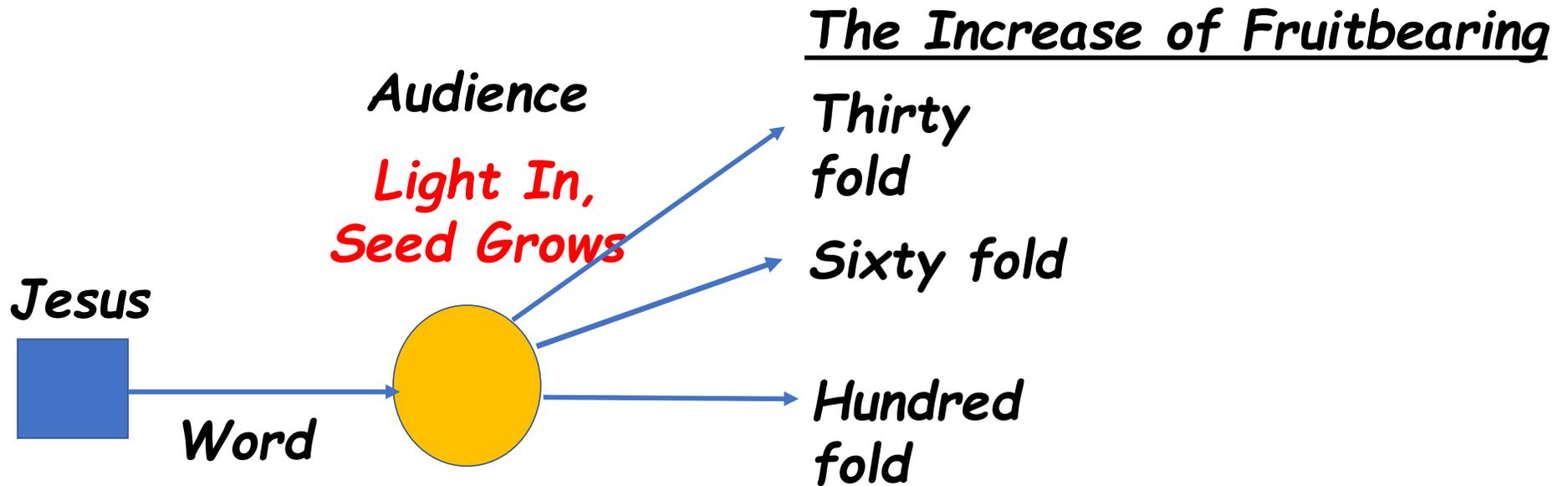
1 Cor 3:6,7

Parable 4: The Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-34

- 30 Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?"
- 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.
- 32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."
- 33 With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand.
- 34 He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.





The Principle of Sharing As Given: **OUR PART**

The Principle of the Lord Gives the Increase: **GOD's PART**

The Principle of God's Kingdom from Small to Great: **GOD's PART**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made.

Psalm 145:13