

# Parables in St Mark's Gospel

## Parable of the Sower (4:1-9)

There is a very simple explanation to this parable; that is, **the Kingdom of God will grow and prosper, in spite of obstacles**. If, however, this parable is understood as allegory, then there is more interpretation to be done. The seed, for example, is to be understood as the message of God. *Connect with arrows the details of the parable with those meanings proper to it.*

seed on the path eaten by birds	The shallow hearer	The person who, living a life of faith obtains depth, according to his faith.
seed that fell on rocky ground	The responsive hearer	The person who is seduced by the pleasures of the world.
seed that fell on good soil	The worldly hearer	Satan carries off the word giving the person no chance to respond.
seed that fell among thorns	The unresponsive hearer	The person who has no roots, lacking depth and persistence.

## Parable of the Tenants (12:1-12)

Connect each detail of the story with the meaning that is most apt.

others	Israel
the owner of the vineyard	the Resurrection of Jesus
the killing of the son	Jesus
the tenants	Gentiles
the stone	God
the servants	Jewish leaders
the son	the prophets
the vineyard	the Crucifixion

## Summary of the parables in Mark's Gospel

Now connect the following parables with the meanings most appropriate to them.

Parable of the seed growing secretly (4:26-29)	The Kingdom of God will grow, from small beginnings, into something large.
Parable of the Sower (4:1-9)	The Kingdom of God is not hidden. It is visible for all to see.
Parable of the Tenants (12:1-12)	The Kingdom of God grows by the power of God.
Parable of the Patches & Parable of the Wineskins (2:21-23)	The Kingdom of God will be taken from those who have misused and abused it, and given to others.
Parable of the Mustard Seed (4:30-32)	The Kingdom of God is new. It does not mix with the old. It is here now.
Parable of the Lamp (4:21-23)	The Kingdom of God will succeed in spite of all difficulties and frustrations.