

Date: _____



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the God/Man, Jesus Series, Lesson 35

Lesson Title: Jesus – The Word

Take Home Point: Jesus is the Word of God that helps us grow.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a football team on the first day of spring practice. Weeks before, the coaches passed out the playbook for the players to study and memorize. When drills begin, though, it rapidly becomes apparent that not everyone knows the plays. The head coach stops practice, lines up the offending players, and one by one asks what happened. "Well, coach, the playbook was really hard." "Well, coach, I tried to study it but there were so many good movies to see." "Well, coach, I studied real hard at first, but then got bored." How do you think the coach would respond to such disregard for his instructions?

Read: Mark 4:1-20

Observation (What happened?):

What four things happened to the seed that was scattered?

What did the seed represent? What did each of the four things that happened represent?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Jesus spoke in parables to the crowds that came to listen to him?

When the seed landed on good soil, who actually made the plant bear fruit?

Insight:

A friend of mine once used an excellent illustration for how we too often handle the Word of God. A woman was going to be gone for a couple of weeks and left instructions with her husband on how to take care of himself, the children, and the house. Everything was included – basic cooking, laundry, all the little things to check on when the kids got ready for school – plus a little love note that said she was looking forward to returning to him. But when she returned, the household was in shambles. She looked at him and said, "Didn't you get my note?!" "Of course I did!" he replied. "I enjoyed reading it and rereading it. I outlined it to make sure I understood your meaning. I formed a note study group so we could all share what we thought the note meant and how important it was to us. I even memorized the parts that I especially appreciated." She was stunned. "But did you DO what I asked?"

Application (What does it mean to me?):

In what area of your life is God wanting you to respond in obedience to his Word? How will you respond?

Take some time to identify fruit God has produced in you by transforming your life, or through you to bless others.