



# Sure Foundation

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*Note: Lesson outlines have been aligned to coordinate with video teaching.*



## **Sure Foundation**

### **Parable of Blade, Ear and Corn**

#### *Lesson 1*

#### **I. Mark 4:26-29**

- A. Mark 4:13 – “And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?”
  - 1. This is the key to unlocking the truths of God’s Word.
  
- B. Mark 4:26-29 – “And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground. And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is

brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.”

- C. Comparison of how the kingdom of God works and how a seed works
  - 1. The seed symbolizes the Word of God.
  - 2. Mark 4:14 – “The sower soweth the Word.”
  - 3. He referenced a seed because it’s a natural law, not a man-made system. The whole universe operates off of seeds.
  - 4. You need to see the importance, integrity, and value of the Word.
- D. The kingdom of God works off of the Word.
  - 1. What seeds have you sown to get your desired harvest?
- E. We expect change but live carnally and don’t take the Word seriously.
  - 1. Proverbs 4:20-24 – “...they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”

2. Don't wait until it's too late to make changes.
- F. Mark 4:27-28 – There's a law to seed, time, and harvest.
1. Time can become your friend.
  2. You can't wait until the night before harvest to plant your seed.
    - a. Sow the Word of God in your heart and leave it there. Don't dig up your seed.
  3. Once you allow time to elapse, you've built up momentum, and the benefits are forever.
- G. You don't even have to understand...it just works.
- H. Mark 4:28 – "... bringeth forth fruit of herself." The Greek word for "of herself" is "automatos." It means self-moved or automatic.
1. The seed draws from the ground to produce fruit.
  2. Our hearts are the "ground" and will produce from the seeds that we sow into it.

3. Romans 8:6 – “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”
4. John 6:63 – “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”
5. Proverbs 23:7 – “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”
  - a. Your life is what you thought.
6. I Peter 1:23 – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”
  - a. The Word of God is incorruptible. If you aren’t experiencing victory in your life, it is not the Word that has failed, it is the fact that we have let something else be planted in our life other than the Word of God.

- b. Proverbs 4:20-22 – “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”
  - c. Psalm 107:20 – “He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”
- I. It’s effortless.
- 1. Apple trees don’t struggle to produce fruit.
  - 2. The only reason change is a terrible experience is because of the way we go about trying to get the change.
  - 3. Change comes by sowing the Word in your heart.
  - 4. Joshua 1:8 – “...thou shalt meditate therein day and night.”

- J. Mark 4:29 – “But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.”
1. Romans 12:2 – “... but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.”
  2. It takes time for the Word of God to spring up and start working in your life. But, it’s the nature of the Word to produce change. Your labor will be rewarded!
  3. You can’t go out every day to see if your seed is growing.
  4. Harvest comes when we use the millions of seeds God gave us.
  5. Ask God to make you usable.

## II. Mark 4:35-41

“And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a

great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

- A. Jesus taught fourteen parables on the same day on the importance of the Word.
- B. He gave them a specific word. "Let us pass over unto the other side."
- C. The disciples should have taken his teachings and applied them.
- D. He gave them a pop quiz; they failed.

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### **Parable of the Sower – Part I**

#### *Lesson 2*

#### **I. Introduction to Mark 4:3-20**

- A. Four types of ground (stages of the heart)
  - 1. The Way Side
  - 2. Stony Ground
  - 3. Thorns
  - 4. Good Ground
- B. The ground doesn't have power, but it provides habitation for the seed.
- C. The seed is the power. It's not you; it's the Word.

1. Your race, family background, financial status, etc. doesn't matter.
  2. You need to put the Word in your heart.
- D. One out of four produced fruit.
1. Variation came from the good ground – 30, 60 and 100-fold.
  2. Common for churches to operate from 25% of their people.
- E. The Word has the same potential in all of us.
1. We have to decide what we'll do with it.
  2. Your potential is determined by the condition of your heart.

## II. The Way Side – Mark 4:15

“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.”

- A. Only type of person Satan had complete access to steal the Word from.

- B. Matthew 13:19 (same parable) – They heard but didn't understand.
- C. Importance of the Teaching Ministry
  - 1. Knowledge of the Word gives you understanding.
  - 2. The Word needs to be proclaimed and also explained.
    - a. You need to come to a person's level.
    - b. The simpler you make it, the easier it is to understand.
    - c. Ephesians 4:17-18 – "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart."

3. If you do not understand the Word of God, there is no chance of the Word of God ever working in your life.

### **III. Stony Ground – Mark 4:16-17**

“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.”

- A. Receive the Word with excitement, but the end result was they were offended.
- B. The Word didn’t work in their lives because they weren’t rooted.
  1. It takes time to build a root system.
  2. Large trees and fruit are visible, but we need to consider the roots.
  3. Mark 4:30-32 – Mustard seed. The Word of God rooted on the inside of you will cause inevitable growth.

- C. Afflictions and persecution come against the Word.
  - 1. Don't take things personally.
    - a. Forget what people say; stay on track.
  - 2. Preaching the Word correctly will cause a response.
    - a. II Timothy 3:12 – “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
    - b. Philippians 3:10 – “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings...”
    - c. Romans 3:4 – “God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...”
  - 3. Afflictions and persecutions don't make you a better person.
    - a. Everywhere Jesus went, He had either a revival or a riot.

- b. Satan brings them to steal the Word out of your heart.
  - c. God isn't sovereignly controlling everything that comes into your life.
  - d. Learn through these experiences.
- D. The people still believed; they just lost their enthusiasm.
- 1. Don't let the Word be diluted.
  - 2. You need to be wholehearted.
  - 3. If God speaks to you, but you let others' opinions influence your decision, you are letting affliction and persecution affect you.
- E. Offenses will come.
- 1. You can't control people.
  - 2. Don't water down the Word so everyone will like you.
  - 3. People need to see the fruit in your life.

4. Mark 4:30-32 – “And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.”
5. Forget about the growth above ground; just put the seed in your heart, let it take root, and protect it, and all of the other stuff will come as a result.

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### **Parable of the Sower – Part II**

#### *Lesson 3*

#### **I. Thorns – Mark 4:18-19**

“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.”

- A. “Andiology” – The four types of ground is a progression we all go through.
- B. Weeds and/or thorns draw out nutrients and moisture for themselves.
  - 1. Multitasking – Philippians 3:13

2. Satan will try to occupy you with the things of the world.
  3. Pull the weeds, feed the plant, and you'll yield large fruit.
  4. Remove distractions. They can cause hardness of heart.
  5. What are you thinking on? – Philippians 4:8-9
  6. If you want to kill a man's vision, give him two.
- C. Every thought can be brought into the obedience of Christ. – II Corinthians 10:3-5
1. Central focus needs to be the Word of God.
    - a. The more attention you put on the Word of God, the more results you'll have.
    - b. Joshua 1:8 – "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do

according to all that is written therein:  
for then thou shalt make thy way  
prosperous, and then thou shalt have  
good success.”

2. Give God everything you’ve got!
3. Stay single-minded on what God has called you to.
4. Exercise your brain like you would a muscle.

## II. Good Ground – Mark 4:8 and 20

“And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundred...And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

- A. The good ground didn’t have more than the others; it had less.
  1. We can all have less in our lives.
  2. Skills, intellect, talent, etc. isn’t what’s needed.

3. Be God-dependent.
- B. It's not the seed that made the difference but the ground.
  - C. God has given you what it takes to succeed...the Word!
    1. John 15:16 – Bring forth fruit.
      - a. If you meditate on the Word and let it take root in your life, it is impossible to keep from bearing fruit.
    2. Pray, “make me useable.”

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### **John the Baptist's Unbelief**

#### *Lesson 4*

#### **I. Matthew 11:1-11 – John the Baptist**

- A. Lived with the Essenes
- B. Proclaimed Jesus – Luke 3:16-17; John 1:29-36, 3:26-36
  - 1. Prepared for 30 years
  - 2. Caused revival
- C. Baptized Jesus – Matthew 3:13-17

#### **II. John's Doubt**

- A. Thrown in prison
  - 1. In prison for a long time

2. Hope deferred makes the heart sick. –  
Proverbs 13:12
- B. Is there another? – Matthew 11:3
- C. Faith isn't automatic.
  1. Anyone can doubt.
  2. Encourage, develop and live life by faith.

### III. Jesus' Response

- A. John was informed. – Matthew 11:4 ("again")
- B. Healed many that hour – Luke 7:19-22
  1. Delay in response to their question
  2. Tell John what you've seen and heard. –  
Luke 7:22
- C. Blessed are those who aren't offended. –  
Matthew 11:6
- D. He spoke positively of John after John's disciples  
departed. – Matthew 11:7-11; Luke 7:24
- E. Jesus gave John the Word, not a boost in ego.

1. John knew prophecies in Isaiah 29:17-19; 35:2-6 and 61:1-2.
2. Banish doubt with the Word.
  - a. Faith and feelings are not synonymous.
  - b. Feelings are an indication of what you've been thinking.
3. Blessed are they that have not seen yet believe. – John 20:24-29
4. David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. – I Samuel 30:6
5. The Word is more worthy than an audible voice of God. – II Peter 1:17-19 and Galatians 1:8
6. God has exalted His Word above His name. – Psalm 138:2

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### **Definition and Explanation of Philosophy**

#### *Lesson 5*

#### **I. Acknowledge What God Has Given You – Colossians 2:1-6**

“For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As ye have

therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”

- A. You don't need more of God – God needs more of you.
- B. You have all that you need – God's given you everything.
- C. You need to acknowledge what is already given to you.
- D. Christ in you is the hope of glory.
- E. Satan has no power against you except deception, fueled by ignorance.
- F. Stay rooted in the Lord, and be thankful in everything!

## **II. Beware – Colossians 2:8**

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

- A. Be on guard – you’re in a war.
- B. ‘Spoil’ – to strip you of everything you have
  - 1. Words are weapons. Everything you say and hear either ministers life or death.
    - a. Mark 11:23 – “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”
    - b. You can have what you say, or you can say what you have.
- C. ‘Philosophy’ – system of thought, which becomes an attitude
  - 1. Whether you realize it or not, you have a philosophy.
  - 2. Satan’s inroad to your life is through your thinking – that’s how he affects you.

- a. The way you think dictates the way you are.
- b. Proverbs 23:7 – “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
- c. Romans 8:6 – “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

### **III. Satan’s Weapon – Deception**

- A. Genesis 3:1 – subtle – deceptive
- B. Temptation comes in the form of thoughts/words challenging God’s Word.
- C. Change and control your thoughts and you will be transformed and escape temptation. – Romans 12:1-2
- D. God’s Word must be personal and the final authority. – Romans 3:4
- E. Your way of thinking determines who you are.

F. Some philosophies or systems of thought:

1. Depression/Joy
  - a. Deuteronomy 28:46-47
  - b. Philippians 4:4
  - c. Psalm 34:1
  - d. John 16:33
  - e. Nehemiah 8:10
  - f. Colossians 2:7
2. Poverty/Prosperity
3. Sickness/Health
4. My rights/Jesus' rights
5. Anger and strife/Peace

G. Assignment:

1. Can you identify any areas in your life where you have been deceived into believing something contrary to the Word?

2. Identify and write down any negative thought patterns in your life.
3. How will you change these?

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### **Adam and Eve Were Discontent**

#### *Lesson 6*

#### **I. Epicureans and Stoics**

- A. Acts 17:17-18 – “Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoics, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.”
- B. One modern philosophy – negative mindset

#### **II. Overcame the Woman Through Words and Discontentment – Genesis 3:1-7**

- A. Satan's strategy
  - 1. He used subtlety, deception, and guile.
  - 2. He used words.
  - 3. He attacked God's Word.
- B. Eve received the command second-hand. When you receive something second-hand, it is easier for you to doubt.
- C. Eve added to God's Word, and it contributed to her deception.
  - 1. You cannot fail without first questioning God's Word.
- D. Eve "saw that the tree was good for food." – dissatisfaction
  - 1. Temptation is linked to what you think. – Hebrews 11:15

### **III. One of the Secrets of Paul's Life – II Corinthians 4:17**

- A. Light affliction – II Corinthians 11:22-28

- B. Eternal perspective – II Corinthians 4:18
- C. Spiritual perspective
- D. Assignment:
  - 1. According to James 1:13-15, whose responsibility is it to keep negative thoughts from taking root in your mind?
  - 2. How do you keep negative thoughts from taking root in your own mind?

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### **Knowing God**

#### *Lesson 7*

#### **I. Genesis 3:1-7**

- A. Foundation scripture – Colossians 2:8
- B. Satan caused Adam and Eve to begin to question the goodness of God.
- C. All lies come from the devil.
- D. Adam and Eve didn't know God very well. The less you know God intimately, the more susceptible you are to deception.
- E. Compare with the relationship of Paul and Jesus.

#### **II. II Peter 1:16-20**

- A. You can know God better through the scripture than through a vision, dream, etc.
- B. Adam, Eve, and Jesus' disciples didn't have scripture to know the true character of God.
  - 1. John 14:4-7 – "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him."
  - 2. It is easier for us to know Him than it was for them.

### **III. How We Relate to God – Isaiah 52 and 53**

- A. At the root of all doubt and unbelief is believing that God is withholding good from you.
  - 1. Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord,

thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

- B. If we had revelation knowledge of who God is, we would never doubt Him.
- C. Galatians 5:6 – All unbelief has its root in lack of love.
- D. Faith is motivated by love.
- E. Know God personally – not just about Him.
- F. Relationship with God cannot be separated from the Word.

## **IV. How God Relates to Us**

- A. God loves us.
  - 1. Romans 8:31 – “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
- B. Relationship builds or produces trust.
- C. It is the nature of a Christian to believe God.

## **V. Ephesians 3:14-19**

- A. I John 5:14 – The key to getting your prayers answered is knowing you're praying God's will.
- B. 'Know' means to experience, be intimate with, have relationship.
- C. God has only good plans for you.
- D. If your focus is on God and who He is, you can rejoice in any situation.
- E. Relationship with God produces boldness.
- F. A person with an experience (with God) is never at the mercy of a person with an argument (against God).

## **VI. God – Our Satisfaction**

- A. Jesus is our 100% satisfaction.
- B. If you're lonely, you have a deficit in your relationship with God.
- C. Assignment:
  - 1. Write down your favorite scriptures that have helped you to better understand God's nature.

2. Considering your relationship with God, describe who He is and what He means to you.

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### **Lordship of Jesus**

#### *Lesson 8*

#### **I. Ephesians 4:14-19**

- A. Don't live like an unbeliever.
- B. Vanity – inutility and transientness
- C. Think about your actions and the consequences.
- D. Lasciviousness – unrestrained or uncontrolled lust

#### **II. Genesis 3:1-7**

- A. God did not create us to be independent or to run our own lives. – Jeremiah 10:23
- B. Lordship of Jesus

1. Proverbs 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”
  2. Romans 10:9 – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”
- C. Learn to obey God.
1. God’s ways are better than our ways.
  2. Follow God wholeheartedly and do what he has called you to do.
- D. Society puts emphasis on self-importance.
- E. All temptation is rooted in selfishness.

### **III. Pride – Proverbs 13:10, 17:14**

- A. The only way that strife can come is through pride.
1. Numbers 12:1-3 – “And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for

he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)”

- B. True humility is not having an opinion about yourself – good or bad.
- C. Timidity is an extreme manifestation of pride.
- D. Self can never be satisfied.
- E. One way to eliminate strife is to change self.
- F. When a person is angry, it’s because they’re self-centered.
- G. Assignment:
  - 1. Describe your experience of when you surrendered your life to Jesus.
  - 2. Are there any areas where you are self-centered? If so, what are they?