

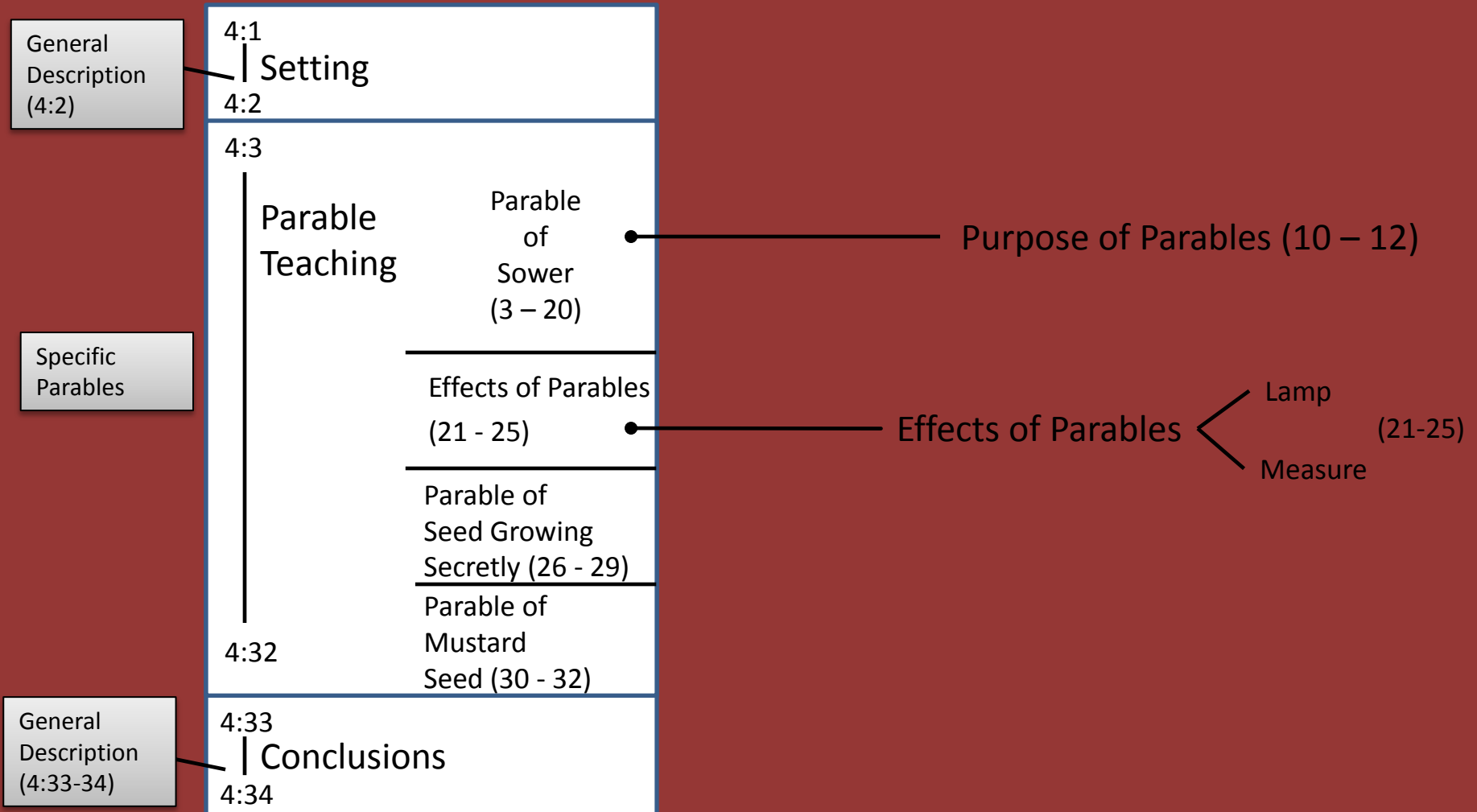
Segment Survey

Mark 4:1-34

Segment Survey – Mark 4:1-34

I. Structure

A. Main Units and Sub-Units



B. Major Structural Relationships:

- 1) Introduction (Preparation/Realization). Mk. 4:1-2 provides background to Jesus' parabolic teaching in 4:3-32.

Questions:

Definitive
Qs

(a) What various aspects of background are set forth in 4:1-2? And how does each of these illumine Jesus' parabolic teaching in 4:3-32?

Rational
Qs

(b) Why did the writer include this background to Jesus' parabolic teaching, and relate this background to Jesus' parabolic teaching in 4: 3-32 as he did?

(c) Implications?

2) Movement from General to Particular (Particularization), and from Particular to General (Generalization)

4:2 – General Description: “And He taught them many things in parables”

4:3-32 – three specific parables

4:33-34 – General Description: “With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it: He did not speak to them without a parable...”

Questions:

(a) What are the major components of the general descriptions re. Jesus’ teaching here (e.g., “parables,” “spoke the word”), and what is the precise meaning of each? How does each of the components illumine Jesus’ specific parabolic teaching in 4:3-32? How do the specific parables and teaching regarding parable, in 4:3-32 provide specific content to the general descriptions of 4:2, 33-34? What is a parable? What is involved in teaching in parables? Which parables are used and what does each mean?

Definitive
Qs

Questions cont.:

Rational
Qs

(b) Why did Mark provide these general descriptions that frame Jesus' parabolic teaching as he has? Why does he give these specific parables? Why, acc. to this passage, did Jesus teach in parables? Why did Jesus teach "many things" in parables?

(c) Implications?

3) Statement of Purpose (Instrumentation) - Mk. 4:10-12 presents the purpose for Jesus' speaking in parables. The parables are the means: 4:10-12 sets forth the end.

Questions:

(a) What is involved in the purpose of the parables? How do the parables serve as the means of achieving this purpose?

Definitive
Qs

(b) Why, according to this passage, did Jesus have such a purpose for this parabolic speech? Why did Jesus use parables to achieve his purpose? Why did the Markan Jesus declare this purpose when he did and as he did?

Rational
Qs

(c) Implications?

4) Movement from Cause to Effect (Causation), and from Effect to Cause (Substantiation).

(This observation is very tentative; It is one way to understand the function of Mk. 4:21-25)

Parables – Mk. 4:3-20 - Cause

Effect of Parables – Mk. 4:21-25 -

Additional parables – Mk. 4:26-32 - Cause

Questions:

Definitive Qs (a) Do vv. 21-25, actually describe the effects of Jesus' parable teaching describing lamp and measure? If so, what do the results, i.e., lamp and measure, mean? How do the parables produce these results of lamp and measure?

Rational Qs (b) Why did the Markan Jesus thus describe lamp and measure as results of this parable teachings?

(c) Implications?

5) Repetition (Recurrence) of Seed Motif - Throughout

Questions:

Definitive
Qs

(a) What is the meaning and significance of the seed motif as employed here? What is the relationship between the individual occurrences of seed language here? And how do these individual instances illumine one another? Is there development of the seed motif here? And if so what is the meaning and significance of this development?

Rational
Qs

(b) Why this emphasis upon seeds here? Why this development of the seed motif within this passage?

(c) Implications?

II. Questions – See Above under I.B

III. Key Verses / Strategic Areas 33-34

- A. 4:1-2, - Represents Introduction (Preparation/ Realization); and Particularization and Generalization
- B. 4:10-12 – Represents Statement of Purpose (Instrumentation)
- C. 4:21-25 – Represents Effect of Parables (Causation and Substantiation)
- D. 4:26 – Represents Repetition (Recurrence) of Seed Motif

IV. Literary Form(s):

Prose Narrative- Form of Story- (4:1-3, 10, 33-34)

Parabolic- Form of Parable- (4:4-9, 21, 32)

Discursive- Form of Logical Argument- (4:11-20)

V. Other Major Impressions

Although three parables are found in this segment, Jesus provides an explanation only for the first parable (4:13-20). This in spite of the comment in 4:34 that “To his disciples he explained everything”