

## God's Word, the Good Seed

Mark 4:1-20

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### I. The parable of the sower. Mark 4:1-9

Jesus taught them many things using parables, which can be described as earthly stories with a \_\_\_\_\_ meaning.

- In this parable we notice the seed was \_\_\_\_\_ in each instance; but, we also learn there are four different types of soil.
1. **The wayside** was a traveled road or a walking path.
  2. **Stony places** had very \_\_\_\_\_ soil on top of a rocky underlayment.
  3. **Among** \_\_\_\_\_ describes good soil which has a bramble bush, brier, or a thorny plant.
  4. **Good ground** describes fertile soil free from any weeds growing in it. A \_\_\_\_\_ crop grows in the **good ground**.

### II. The purpose of parables. Mark 4:10-12

Jesus' parables used things which were familiar to the crowds in order to illustrate a Kingdom truth and provoke a \_\_\_\_\_ hunger.

- Those who continually \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' message will be left in spiritual blindness to wonder about the meaning.

There is a definite difference between auditory hearing and \_\_\_\_\_ hearing, which leads to belief. **Romans 10:17**

### III. The parable explained. Mark 4:13-20

#### 1. The walking path.

The wayside represents people who hear the word \_\_\_\_\_; but, fail to understand the message. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**

#### 2. The rocky ground.

This is a picture of someone who hears the Gospel and seems to be very enthusiastic; but, the \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God never really took root.

#### 3. Seed among thorns.

The call to follow Jesus puts God \_\_\_\_\_ in all things. **Matthew 19:21-22**

#### 4. The \_\_\_\_\_ ground. (those who hear and accept the Word)

### IV. Practical Application.

The Jewish Talmud taught the \_\_\_\_\_ is an act of faith. **Hebrews 11:1**  
The Word of God is always good; so, when the true Word of God is sown, it is always Good Seed. The only difference is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hearers.

### Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 4:1-2**. Why did Jesus get into a boat? How could a large crowd hear Jesus from the boat?
2. Read **Mark 4:3-9**. Discuss the four types of soil. What did Jesus mean with the statement, "He who has an ear, let him hear"? **Isaiah 6:9-10, Proverbs 20:12, Proverbs 28:9, Revelation 2:7**
3. To which of the seeds/hearts in the parable of the sower would you compare your faith? Are you more of a hard heart, a shallow heart, a crowded heart, or a fruitful heart? What makes you think that? (Wiersbe)
4. Read **Mark 4:10-12**. What is a parable? Discuss the purpose of Jesus using parables. What happens when a person refuses to hear God's Word? What is the mystery of the Kingdom of God? **Isaiah 6:9-13, Daniel 12:4, John 16:12, Colossians 1:26-27, Ephesians 5:32, 1 Corinthians 2:7, Colossians 4:2-3**
5. Why is it important to have faith once you have heard the Word of God? **Romans 10:17, John 4:23-24, Hebrews 11:1-6**
6. Read **Mark 4:13-20**. Discuss the four points given within point III. of the sermon note sheet. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4, James 1:21-22, Matthew 19:21-22, 1 Peter 1:22-23**
7. Discuss the Practical Applications of this sermon. **1 Corinthians 3:6-7, James 5:7**