

THE SOIL IS THE PROBLEM

MARK 4:1-20

Introduction: The Kingdom Parables

Mark 4:1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

I. The Parable of the Sower

**Mark 4:3 Hearken; Behold,
there went out a sower to sow:**

A. First Type of Soil: Wayside

**Mark 4:4 And it came to pass,
as he sowed, some fell by the
way side, and the fowls of the
air came and devoured it up.**

B. Second Type of Soil: Stony Ground

Mark 4:5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

**Mark 4:6 But when the sun
was up, it was scorched; and
because it had no root, it
withered away.**

**C. Third Type of Soil: Ground
Covered with Thorns**

Mark 4:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

D. Fourth Type of Soil: Good Ground

Mark 4:8 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 an hundred.

**Mark 4:9 And he said unto
them, He that hath ears to hear,
let him hear.**

“Why wouldn’t the farmer only cast seed on good soil? Some fell on the pathway by accident (some fell by the wayside), but most of the seed was sown on ground that was plowed after the seed was cast. Therefore, you didn’t know where rocks were or where thorns might grow.” (Guzik)

II. Questions About The Parable

**Mark 4:10 And when he was
alone, they that were about him
with the twelve asked of him
the parable.**

Mark 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Mark 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

**Mark 4:13 And he said unto
them, Know ye not this
parable? and how then will ye
know all parables?**

III. Explanation of the Parable of the Sower

A. The Seed is the Word of God

**Mark 4:14 The sower soweth
the word.**

**B. Those by the Wayside are
Unbelievers**

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.

"Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." (Luke 8:12)

**C. Those on Stony Ground are
People who have no root in
themselves.**

**Mark 4:16 And these are they
likewise which are sown on
stony ground; who, when they
have heard the word,
immediately receive it with
gladness;**

Mark 4:17 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.

**"They on the rock are they,
which, when they hear, receive
the word with joy; and these
have no root, which for a while
believe, and in time of
temptation fall away."**

(Luke 8:13)

**D. Those Among Thorns are
People who Receive the Word
but Produce no Fruit from it.**

**Mark 4:18 And these are they
which are sown among thorns;
such as hear the word,**

**Mark 4:19 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.**

**E. Those on Good Ground are
People who Believe and Bring
forth Fruit.**

**Mark 4:20 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 an hundred.**

In Conclusion

- The Problem is NOT the Sower.
- The Problem is NOT the Seed.
- The Problem IS the Soil.