

FOUR SOILS: A PARABLE – PART 1

--MARK 4:1-20--

INTRODUCTION:

To help the disciples understand the cause of Israel's growing rejection of Himself, Jesus told a parable that explained the different types of people that heard Jesus' message during the years of His ministry. First, He tells the parable to the crowd, then when He is alone with the disciples and the wider group of His followers, He tells them the purpose for speaking to the people in parables. Third, Jesus explains or interprets the parable for those who have put their faith in Him.

I. THE PARABLE (Mark 4:1-9)

- a. Jesus' mother and brothers did not persuade Jesus to return with them to Nazareth, but He did leave the _____ and went again out to the shore of the Sea of Galilee.
- b. Mark tells us that on this occasion that such a large crowd had gathered around Him that Jesus got into a _____ in the sea and sat down and began to teach the people standing on the shore.
- c. Mark tells us that on this occasion Jesus was teaching them many things in _____.
- d. As Jesus introduced the parable of the soils, He began by saying, "_____ to this!"
- e. Jesus went on to tell the people where this scattered _____ fell as the sower sowed the seed.
- f. Some seed, Jesus said, fell beside the _____.
- g. Jesus went on to describe other seed that fell on _____ ground that did not have much soil.
- h. Jesus then said that some seed fell on soil among _____.
- i. Finally, in contrast to the first three useless soils, Jesus said, that other seeds fell into the _____ soil.

II. THE PURPOSE (Mark 4:10-12)

- a. Jesus concluded this parable with a statement of _____ and judgment.

- b. As soon as He was _____ meaning the crowds had departed for the day, Jesus was alone with the twelve and the extended group of His followers.
- c. Jesus gave a two-part answer to why He was using parables: to conceal the _____ from the hard-hearted while revealing to those who believed.
- d. Jesus' followers possessed the ears to _____, and Jesus would willingly disclose the meaning of the parable to them.
- e. The parables Jesus told had a completely different purpose for unbelievers, the purpose was to _____ the truth from them.
- f. Both the religious leaders and the curious crowds had been given enough time and evidence to conclude that Jesus Christ was the promised _____.

CONCLUSION:

At the beginning of the parable Jesus said, "Listen to this!" At the end He said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." With both statements Jesus was making a distinction between those who were truly His followers and those who were not. Only those who recognized and believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be given the understanding of the parables. The ones who rejected Him, refused to believe the evidence before them, these words were words of judgment. This was a major turning point in the ministry of Jesus, His teaching to the crowds would be in parables that only those who truly believed in Him would understand. The rest would be left outside awaiting judgment.

This morning my question to you is where do you stand? Last week we learned that Jesus was the Son of God, to not believe that is to call Him a lunatic or a liar. To believe that He is the Son of God is to believe that He is everything that He claimed to be. There is another day of judgment coming for those who refuse to believe the claims of Jesus, those who refuse His grace and the forgiveness of sin that He paid for through His death and resurrection. I am certainly thankful that I will not have to be here for that time of judgment on the earth. I hope and pray that each of you also will not be here.