

FOUR SOILS – A PARABLE – PART 2

--MARK 4:1-20--

INTRODUCTION:

The parable of the four soils or the Sower and the seed is the most familiar of the parables and that is because it comes with Jesus' explanation of it. That explanation then becomes the key to explaining the other parables. As we look at the rest of this passage, remember that Jesus is now alone with His twelve disciples and those who are His wider circle of followers who believe that Jesus is the Messiah. To them Jesus is going to give them the mystery of the kingdom of God, and they are going to learn what the parable of the four soils means. They will learn from this parable that Israel's growing rejection of Jesus as the Messiah is the result of the four different types of soil found in Jesus' parable.

I. AN EXPLANATION (Mark 4:13-14)

- a. As we come to verse 13, Jesus has just explained why He is speaking to the _____ in parables.
- b. Jesus begins by explaining the _____. (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43)
- c. Jesus moves onto His main emphasis in this parable which is the different types of _____ that the seed falls on. (Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23)

II. ROADSIDE SOIL (Mark 4:15)

- a. Jesus in the parable said the first place where the seed fell was on the _____, or the paths that divided one field from another.
- b. They have such hardened hatred and hostility toward the truth that when they hear it, immediately _____ comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. (2nd Corinthians 4:4)

III. ROCKY SOIL (Mark 4:16-17)

- a. The second soil where Jesus said the seed fell was the _____ soil and Jesus said that this seed germinated and sprouted but soon after that it died.

- b. At first, the stony soil looks _____.
- c. The shallowness of their _____ becomes evident "*when affliction or persecution arises because of the word...*" (Mark 4:17b, NASB95)
- d. When their faith is tested, these _____ believers stumble and fall.

IV. THORNY SOIL (Mark 4:18-19)

- a. The third soil where Jesus said the seed fell was the _____ soil.
- b. Instead of loving Jesus Christ alone, their hearts remain _____ by a love of the world. (Matthew 6:19-21, 24; 1st Timothy 6:10; 1st John 2:15-17)

V. GOOD SOIL (Mark 4:20)

- a. The fourth soil where the seed fell is in contrast to the three types of poor _____ already mentioned.
- b. The fourth _____ is soft, clean, and fertile. (1st Thessalonians 2:13)
- c. Genuine believers, those characterized by the good soil, do not merely accept the gospel mentally, they are _____ by it through the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 15:5-8)
- d. Jesus often included a _____ element in His parables, this one is no exception.

CONCLUSION:

Believers are called to be witnesses of the good news. As sowers, we are not to tamper with the seed, nor can we prepare the soil. We are responsible to faithfully scatter the seed of the gospel. As we scatter the seed, we can expect it to fall on one of the four soils that Jesus described in His parable. Some will reject it. There will be some who truly receive the gospel, humbly turning from their sins and embracing the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and King. The genuineness of their faith will be evidenced by the harvest of abundant fruit produced by their transformed lives.