

Seed Thoughts

(Mark 4)

Different responses to Jesus (Mk.1-3)

- Left all, followed Him, Mk.1:16-29
- Amazed at His authority, Mk.1:21-22
- ‘Good natured’ disobedience, Mk.1:23-28
- Never let Him go, Mk.1:29-38...45
- Loaded questions, Mk.2:15-17; 2:18-22...
- Outlaw, Mk.2:23-28; 3:1-6
- Out of His mind, 3:20-21...31

I. What? Explanation,
Mk.4:3-20

Parable, 1-8

- Para-legal – comes alongside a lawyer.
- Para-ble – story comes alongside lesson.
 - Galilee's sloping beach / inlets formed amphitheater
 - Sowers: familiar sight
 - Sowed first – plowed after

Wayside soil, 4

- Land divided into small plots
- Usually no fences or walls; narrow paths
- Became hard like sidewalks
 - Ho.10:12...

Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

- Aesop

Stony soil, 5-6

- Palestine is stone overlaid with different depths of soil.
- 5: shallow layer of dirt covers bedrock.
- Seed would spring up quickly.
- Could not sink roots; hot sun burned it.

Thorny soil, 7

- Not already covered with thorns.
- Weed-seed buried underneath soil grew faster than wheat.

Porter: thistles grew so tall and rank that a horse could not push through them.

Good soil, 8

- Fertile ... loose ... deep ... clean ... allows unhindered growth.
- Gn.26:12, Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him.

Six seeds –
Three worthless
Three good

'Let him hear,' 9

1. Listen! 9.
2. Understand, 11-13.
3. Respond, 20.
4. Discern, 24.

Purpose of parables, 10-12

1. Illustrations that stick. Truth in word pictures.
2. Insight that saves. Can't save everyone. 75% is bad soil.
3. Indictment of scoffers. Use it or lose it. Is.6:9-10.
 - Not absolute – Mk.12:12

Explanation, 13-20

14, **seed** is Word; produces after its kind.

Ac.11:26

Methuselah



Explanation, 13-20

14, **seed** is Word; produces after its kind.

Ac.11:26

14-20, **soils** are different types of hearers.

‘The fate of any spoken word
depends on the hearer.’

I. What? Explanation

II. So What? Exhortation

Wayside: hardened against truth, 14

- Heart became road for every evil influence...
- 3:1-6, pride and prejudice...
 - Evidence . . .

Fed 5000, Mt.14:13-21 – cold?

Green grass, Mt.14:19; Mk.6:39

Peter slipped on ice? Mt.14:30

Worshipped Him, Mt.14:33. Why?

Peter knew lake, Mt.14:22-28

Wayside: hardened against truth, 14

- 15: satan knows power of Word.
 - “Immediately” – wastes no time.
- Gn.3: few words change human race...
- Mk.7:21, *out of the heart...* (Gn.3)

Gen.3:1-6

Eve heard...believed
...obeyed satan: fell.

NT: (Ac.2)

We hear...believe
...obey God: saved.

Wayside: hardened against truth, 14

- 15: satan knows power of Word.
 - “Immediately” – wastes no time.
- Gn.3: few words change human race...
- Mk.7:21, *out of the heart...* (Gn.3)
- Satan cannot remove the seed or influence the heart without our permission.
 - Jn.6 ... Judas ... Ananias and Sapphira

‘People occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off like nothing happened’ – Churchill

Stony: joy and passion cannot substitute for conviction, 16-17

- Stony does not reject truth; it lacks depth.
- Stony fails to count the cost, Lk.14:27-33
- Col.2:7

“...rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving...”

Stony: joy and passion cannot substitute for conviction, 16-17

- Jer.17:8

For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Thorny: distractions destroy souls, 18-19

- They do not lack soil (even good soil)...
- BUT weeds need attention.
- **Thorn**: anything that crowds Jesus out of our life...death by strangulation.
 - They needed this warning...

Thorns can be weeded out

- **Cares:** Lk.21:34, preoccupation of daily life. (2 Tim.2:4)
- **Deceitfulness of riches.** Mk.10:22.

‘Money has a way of binding us to what is physical and temporal, and blinding us to what is spiritual and eternal.’

Thorns can be weeded out

- **Cares:** Lk.21:34, preoccupation of daily life. (2 Tim.2:4)
- **Deceitfulness of riches.** Mk.10:22.
- **Desires for other things.** Can't think about anything else...

But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does
– Ja.1:25.

Thorns can be weeded out

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But exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin – Hb.3:13.

Good soil: retains seed. Lk.8:15

- Mk.4:3, 9, begins and ends with warning...
Listen!
- Before and after picture:
 - Before: must have been growing weeds.
 - Look at it now!
 - Chapter 5, demoniac: dramatic changes

1. Whole world is divided into only two groups.

1: those who reject gospel, quit gospel, or let it choke to death.

2: sinners, but now receive seed, bear fruit...

2. Closing admonitions.

- a. Use what you have, 23.
- b. Use what God gave you, 24.
- c. Use gainfully what God gave you and grow, 25a.
- d. Use it or lose it, 25b.

3. Disciples may think four soils are permanently fixed.

- Good soil can change for the worse.
- Bad soil can change for the better.