



Mark 4:1-20 The Parable of the Sower (pt1)

Today: Background and Context of this parable

1. Mark is the shortest of the three synoptic gospels. He skips some significant things that the other gospels include such as the “Sermon on the Mount”. But Mark is also very _____ in what he tells us, and one section often connects to and flows from the previous section.

- a. The people illustrated in the Parable of the Sower have all been introduced to us in the text of Mark 1-3.
 - i. The “path” people are the _____ and Teachers of the Law
 - ii. The “rocky soil” people are those believing in the benefits of God, but not the message of Jesus. In other words: The _____.
 - iii. The “thorn” people are those who _____ because of the pressure from the Pharisees and because of other social pressures. These were _____ of the crowd, and the _____ of Jesus.
 - iv. The “good soil” people in this context are the _____.

- b. The outcome of the people in the Parable of the Sower have all been introduced to us in the text of Mark 1-3.
 - i. The “path people” have _____ outright Jesus message.
 - ii. The “rocky soil” people are in it when the message is positive and the show is good, but gone when _____ runs out.
 - iii. The “thorn” people reject Jesus to _____ and maintain favor.
 - iv. The “good soil” people continue to be fed, grow, and _____ who God desires them to be.

Please note that people in all three groups are still _____ to the World, Satan, and the sin nature, but are also _____ with God’s truth.

- i. Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, the Rich Young Ruler, and Paul all came out of the “path people”.
- ii. Most of the People at Pentecost and Jesus family came out of the “Rocky” and “Thorny” soils.
- iii. Judas fell out of the “good” soil because it became thorny. Paul, James, and Jude all joined after Jesus death.

2. There is both a _____ and a _____ in the meaning of the parable.

- a. The blessing is the great _____ found in the good soil (vs 20)
 - i. In one sense, we are among the plentiful harvest produced by the apostles.
 - ii. In another sense, _____ may be a part of the “good soil” people.
 - a. 34 people saved here in last 4 years
 - b. 100+ people saved in 27 years of Pastoring
 - c. Many of you were the first believer in your family (Don’t be the only believer, just be the first)
 - d. Edward Kimball
- b. The judgement is the _____ of the parables themselves. (vs 11-12)
 - i. The Pharisees would no longer hear Jesus teachings directly.
 - ii. The crowd of spectators would no longer hear Jesus teachings.
 - iii. Pharaoh is the best example of this in the OT.

3. Lessons we can learn from today’s message

- a. You can reject God so many times that God _____ pursuing you.
- b. You can _____ your soil, both for the good and for the bad.
- c. In _____ sovereignty, HE may use your obedience to generate a harvest beyond your wildest dreams.

Response Prayer:

Father, please help me to tend my soil so that I can be firmly planted in good soil. In the areas where I am not capable of tending it myself, please do your work to remove my obstacles. If I’ve allowed thorns and weeds and rocky to ruin my soil, forgive me and show me how to remove them. And whatever good soil I have now, please help me keep it cultivated and fertilized and productive for you.