

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Mark 4:1-20

Jesus was a Master Teacher. He often used stories in order to engage his audience and he left them with much to process and think about. In this passage, Jesus is going to teach his listeners through a *parable*, which is an earthly story that involves heavenly truth.

Here are a few helpful things to know as you read the story...

Sower = God

Seed = Gospel Truth

Soils = Hearts of People

MARK 4:1-9 – JESUS INTRODUCES THE 4 SOILS

What are the 4 different types of soils and explain the differences between them?

What are the actual results in each of the different examples of what grows and what doesn't?

MARK 4:10-20 - JESUS EXPLAINS THE 4 SOILS (TYPES OF HUMAN HEARTS)

Why are some hearts hard (along the path)? What causes hardness towards spiritual things in people?

Describe what a shallow spiritual life looks like? What are the differences between spiritual depth and shallowness?

Discuss what parts of a teenagers life can “choke” out God and prevent spiritual growth from happening.

Why is it important to prepare physical soil for growing? Why then is it important to prepare a person's heart to be receptive to the truths of the gospel?

APPLICATION

Only one type of heart (the good soil) actually produced a sustained evidence of change. Have you ever experienced this type of total transformation in your life? Share with the group your story.

Which soil most accurately describes your spiritual life today?