

Who Do You Say I Am? – Mark Scene 9 & 10

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Mark 4:1-34

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

We want to be close to God

Few, if any of us, are as close to God as we would like to be.

*What 'strategies' have you tried to grow spiritually?

*What were the results or outcomes?

Read and discuss Mark 4:3-20 (NIV)

³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

*What is this passage saying to you?

*What do we learn about Jesus by his choice to teach using metaphor filled stories instead of statements of fact?

This parable is about what we do with the message of Jesus

The four types of soil represent how people experience Jesus and his message:

>The hard path – convinced you see things the right way and can't be shaken from that

>The rocky soil – struggles when trouble, pain and persecution comes

>The thorny soil – struggles with unmet needs and desires

>The good soil – ready to receive, welcome and embrace

*Where do you see yourself right now in this story?

*What are examples in today's world or from your life of these different soil types?

The softness of your heart will determine everything about your spiritual growth

If your heart is soft – if it is receptive – if it welcomes direction from Jesus – it doesn't matter what you do it's going to be hard not to grow

*What does it look like to be characterized by soft-heartedness?

*How can we develop and encourage this receptive and humble soil in our lives?