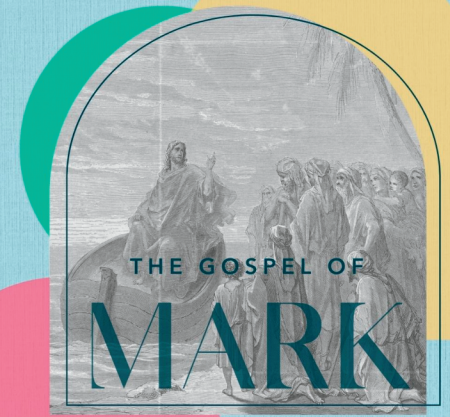


August 27, 2023

ARE YOU GROWING WEEDS OR SOWING SEEDS?

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 4:1-20



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. 2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, 3 "Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. 6 And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." 9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." 10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. 11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, 12 so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven." 13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."



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REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- When was the first time you can remember hearing and understanding God's word?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

GROW IN THE WORD

- 01. Jesus taught a parable about a sower who scattered seeds in different types of soil. Some seeds were snatched up by birds. Some sprang up quickly but died from the heat of the sun. Others bore no fruit while still others bore much fruit. Jesus explained that only some would understand the meaning behind this parable (1-12).**
 - Why do you think Jesus limited his explanation of the parable to his followers? Consider the context developed in the preceding chapter and see Matthew 13:14-17.

GROW IN THE WORD

- What are the different types of soil that the seeds land on in this parable? List each one and its outcome.

- How can you cultivate "ears that hear" and take steps to be more receptive to God's word? See Proverbs 2:2-5; Psalm 95:6-8; James 1:21.

02. Jesus explained the parable of the sower to his followers by teaching that the seed was the word, and the different types of soil were the different ways people received his word. Satan took away the word from some. Some believed in Jesus' message but fell away in the face of persecution. Others bore no fruit because of worldly troubles while still others heard, accepted, and bore much fruit (13-20).

- Which explanation of seeds and soil stands out most to you and why?



GROW IN THE WORD

- What are "thorns" and "rocks" common in our day that hinder spiritual receptivity and growth?

- How can you guard against the worldly worries or worldly wealth described in verse 19 and remain steadfast in your faith? Consider Matthew 6:19-21.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL GROUPS

Men & Women | Times & Locations Vary

Have you joined one of our Bible studies or Equipping Classes? We also have multiple support groups designed to help you deepen your walk with God in community with others at Wayside. Learn more online.

CHURCH-WIDE WORSHIP NIGHT

September 6 | 7 - 8 pm | Worship Center

We believe worship is vital to our walk with Jesus. We have set aside time to gather corporately for a time to worship and fix our eyes on Jesus as we begin the fall semester. Learn more online.