

The Parable of the Sower Mark 4:1 - 20

This parable is one of the most well-known parables. It has a distinct advantage in that we get to read/hear what Jesus meant by the parable. It is also found in **Matthew 13:1 – 23** and **Luke 8:4 – 15**.

Let's start with **Mark 4:1 – 12**.

What is meant by the Kingdom of God in verse 11?

What is the “secret” of the Kingdom of God?

What is the broader meaning of verses 11 and 12 and what difficulties do these verses present to us about the nature of God?

What admonition do we see in verses 3 and 9?

How does this relate to Romans 10:14 – 17?

What is the difference between listening and hearing?

How is the Kingdom of God coming through the hearing of the Word different from how earthly Kingdoms are established and how might this help explain why the Disciples and other had a difficult time understanding Jesus' teachings and actions?

Let's now read **Mark 4:13 – 20**.

Who does the Sower represent? _____

What does each type of soil represent? _____

We are told that the seed represents the Word of God. The Word is received differently by the different "soils". What does this say about the Word?

How would you describe or differentiate between the "hearts" of those in path vs the rocky ground?

How would you describe the type of faith being described for those where the seed fell on rocky soil? Who is their God?

How would you describe the type of heart that is being described by the seed that grows up in the thorns?

Is this describing someone who is an unbeliever or a believer? Why or why not?

How would you describe the type of heart that is being described by the seed that fell on good soil?

What does soil do to grow seeds and how does gardening help us understand our relationship with Jesus? How does the Parable of the Fig tree help us understand this parable?
