



For A Really Messed Up World

The Gospel of Mark

March 2, 2008

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How to Know the Will of God

Mark 4:1-20

Message # 6

M E S S A G E N O T E S

35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.
Mark 3:35 NKJV

The Parable of the Sower

1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. 5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. 7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

9 And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Mark 4:1-9
NKJV

The Question

10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 11 And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, 12 so that

‘ Seeing they may see and not perceive,
 And hearing they may hear and not understand;
 Lest they should turn,
 And their sins be forgiven them.’” (vv. 10-12)

**Because of the hardness of peoples’ hearts, eventually, God can
 _____ their ability to hear the truth.**

13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? (v. 13)

How People Respond to the Word of God

SOILS (Hearts)	KINDS	GROWTH	HINDRANCES	RESULTS
Wayside	Hard (No Faith)	Devoured – No Growth	(Birds) Satan	Devoured
Stony	Shallow (Faith, but no convictions)	Immediately sprang up Germinates – No growth	(Sun) Trouble & persecution because of the Word	Scorched & withered
Thorny	Crowded (Faith, but no Understanding)	Grows but choked out Received/ but stumble No Fruit	(Thorns) Cares of the world Deceitfulness of wealth Lust for “other things”	Plants with no fruit
Good	Open & Responsive	To maturity, producing fruit	(None) Hears AND understands	Bears fruit at varying degrees 30/60/100 fold

The Explanation

14 *The sower sows the word. (v. 14)*

The “Wayside” Heart of Hard Soil

15 *And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. (v. 15)*

The “Stony” Heart of Shallow Soil

16 *These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. (vv. 16,17)*

The “Thorny” Heart of Crowded Soil

18 *Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. (vv. 18,19)*

Three Types of “Thorns”:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

The “Good” Heart of Receptive Soil

20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” (v. 20)

LIFE APPLICATIONS

1. The Will of God for a follower of Christ is a _____
to His Word

2. To “hear God’s Word” and not obey is to _____

3. We must recognize that there is a _____ to keep
God’s Word from changing our lives

_____, _____, _____

4. God’s Word is the primary instrument for _____ in
human beings

16 When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God of Heaven. Jeremiah 15:16