

REJECTING AND RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Mark 4:13-20

Parables “reflect the principles of the kingdom of God, and consequently serve as mirrors of our own lives. They force us to ask the question, ‘where do I stand in relation to the kingdom of God?’ They show us our own hearts in the light of God’s word.”

Sinclair Ferguson

The parables were designed to *produce a response*, and the response was the *evidence* of whether someone was a believer or unbeliever.

The Parable of the Soils *exposes* and *explains* the *spiritual condition* of the heart in its *response* to God's *truth*:

- *Three conditions* reveal a heart *without* saving faith in Jesus Christ as God's only Son.
- *One condition* shows saving faith in a heart which *receives* God's truth and *reaps the blessings* of that belief and obedience.

The interpretive key is provided for us in what the Lord said about the parable:

*“The sower sows **the word...** Satan comes and takes away the word which has been **sown in them.**” (Mark 4:14-15)*

Luke 8:11

- Seed = “*the word of God*”
- Soil = the heart of each person where the seed falls
- Condition/Preparation of the heart = makes the *difference* in the response of each person
- Sower = *anyone* who shares the truth of God’s gospel, that Jesus saves us from our sins through faith in His sacrifice on the cross made *on our behalf*.

I. Three conditions of the heart related to *rejecting* God's word of truth in Christ

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A. The *indifferent* heart (Mark 4:3-4, 13-15)

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B. The *hardened* heart (Mark 4:5-6, 16-17)

I. *Three conditions* of the heart related to *rejecting* God's word of truth in Christ

A. The *indifferent* heart

B. The *hardened* heart

C. The *disloyal* heart (Mark 4:7, 18-19)

*“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word implanted**, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:21-22*

II. Receiving the Word of God (Mark 4:8, 20)

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A. The principle of *process*

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A. The principle of *process*

B. The principle of *production*

This parable teaches us that *spiritual growth* is the product of *spiritual truth*.

Your growth in the *knowledge* and *ways* of God only comes through spiritual truth at work in your heart.

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18)

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