

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)

- 1. Believers:** Those who have ears to hear have God's gift of **faith** to listen spiritually; they enjoy a **holy desire** to learn of the Lord, so that the **truth-nugget** contained in the parable is revealed to them by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Unbelievers:** For the scornful, self-assured, and hard-hearted who reject Jesus and His wisdom, the truth of the Lord remains hidden and inaccessible. Unbelievers forfeit the blessings that come with believing in Jesus as Savior and of being saved from the power and penalty of sin.

Three of these conditions reveal a heart **without** saving faith in Jesus Christ as God's only Son.

And only one condition shows **saving faith** in a heart which **receives** and **obeys** God's truth and **reaps** the blessings of that belief and obedience.

*“The sower sows **the word**... Satan comes and takes away the word which has been **sown in them**.”*

What does He mean by the word being sown **in them**?

The **Sower** is anyone who shares the truth of God's gospel, the truth that Jesus saves us from our sins through faith in His sacrifice on the cross made on our behalf.

Luke 8:11—"*...the **seed** is the word of God*"

The **soil** is the heart of each person where the seed falls.

The **condition** or **preparation** of the heart (the soil) is what makes the difference in the response of each person.

I. Rejecting God's Word (Mark 4:13-19)

A. The **indifferent** heart (vs. 3-4; 13-15)

Self-righteous unbelievers, *“in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

(2 Cor. 4:4)

I. Rejecting God's Word (Mark 4:13-19)

B. The **hardened heart (vs. 5-6; 16-17)**

I. Rejecting God's Word (Mark 4:13-19)

C. The **disloyal** heart (vs. 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 God's Word (Mark 4: 8, 20)

A. The principle of **process**:

The seeds that fell into the good soil "*grew up*" and "*increased.*"

II. Receiving God's Word (Mark 4: 8, 20)

B. The principle of **production**:

Healthy plants yield good fruit.

“...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.”

2 Peter 3:18





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