Jesus Christ, the Son of God
Studies in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson 5: The Sower and the Seed
Mark 4:1-20

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Soul Searching:
the Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers

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http://www.tbcpdx.org/curriculum/09-1_mark/soul_searching.wmv
What do you think about Jesus?

- Beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Jesus is the Heart of the Gospel
  - He is the Christ – the Savior
  - He is the Son of God – God in the flesh
- A message that demands a response
Outline of Mark

- The beginning: Mark 1:1-13
- The ministry of Jesus: Mark 1:14-10:52
- The work of Jesus: Mark 11:1-16:8
- The continuation: Mark 16:9-20
The fundamentals: Mark 1:1-13

- Jesus is the long promised Christ
- Jesus came to deliver from sin
- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil
The ministry: Mark 1:14-3:12

- He came preaching
- He came calling disciples
- He cast out demons
- He healed diseases
- He obeyed the Law
- He forgives sins
- He came to call sinners to repentance
- He came to establish a New Covenant
Our Response to Him (Mark 3:13-35)

➤ Three responses:
  – Follow Him
  – Overt hostility
  – Friendly rejection

➤ A call to do the will of God
The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20)

- Parable Presented (4:3-9)
- Explanation of Parables (4:1-2, 10-12)
- Interpretation of the Parable (4:13-20)
Explanation of Parables (4:1-2, 10-12)

- He taught many things in parables (4:2)
  - Mark 3:23-27
  - Matthew 13:34-35

- A story in nature or human experience which teaches or illustrates spiritual truth
  - Fable
  - Allegory
  - Proverb
Purpose of Parables (Mark 4:10-12)

- A gracious gift of revelation
- Truth concerning the Kingdom of God
- Mystery
  - not revealed in previously
  - Colossians 1:26
Purpose of Parables (Mark 4:10-12)

- Conceal truth from some
- An explanation from Isaiah 6:9
- A judgment for sin
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14
  - Parable demonstrates judgment
  - Matthew 11:25-30
The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

- A sower went out to sow (4:3)
- Sown on the wayside (4:4)
  - Eaten by the birds
- Sown on stony ground (4:5-6)
  - Sprang up immediately
  - Scorched by the sun
  - Withered – no root
The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

▷ Sown among thorns (4:7)
  – Initial growth
  – Competition choked it out
  – No crop

▷ Sown on good ground (4:8)
  – Super-productive
The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:3-9)

- A call to understand (4:9)
- Disciples do not understand
- Jesus rebukes their lack of understanding
  - Mark 6:51-52; 7:18; 8:17, 21; 9:32
- Illumination required
Understanding the Parable (13-20)

- The sower sows the Word
  - The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God
  - A lesson on the response to the Word of God
Sown on the wayside (4:15)

- Hearing without reception – Ezekiel 33:30-33
- Satan takes away the Word
  - 2 Corinthians 4:4 – the God of this world blinds the minds of those who believe not
- What do we see?
Sown on stony ground (4:16-17)

- An immediate response with joy
- No root in themselves
  - A hard stony heart (Ezekiel 36:26)
  - No spiritual life so no fruit of the Spirit
  - James 1:22 – hearers only
- Temporary response, then they stumble
- Instruments of stumbling
  - Tribulation
  - Persecutions for the Word’s sake
- What do we see?
Sown among thorns (4:18-19)

- Hear the word – receive
- Obstacles
  - Cares of this world
  - Deceitfulness of riches
  - Desires for other things
- Word choked out by the world
- Opposes the will of God (1 John 2:17)
- Become unfruitful
- What do we see?
Sown on good ground (4:20)

- Hear and accept the Word
- Bear fruit
  - Fruit of the Spirit
  - Holiness
  - Zeal
  - Mortification of the flesh
  - Denial of worldly desires
- What do we see?
The Lesson of the Parable

- Consider yourself
- Consider your brother in Christ
- Consider the unbeliever
- Beware the enemies of the Gospel