



Fall 2018 Series – Christianity Explored – November 11

Message: The Sower – Listen Carefully

Scripture: Mark 4:1-9; 13-20 - Weekly Reading Mark 15

A Parable is a story with a deeper, sometimes hidden, meaning.

The Good News of Jesus Christ will only change your life if you hear it properly and respond by faith to following Jesus. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Parable of the Sower.

The Farmer represents those who "sow the Word" (Mark 4:14) They tell people the good news about Jesus Christ.

The Seed is: "The Word" (Mark 4:14) The Word of God, the Bible's message about Jesus' identity, mission, and call.

The Path (v. 4, 15) is like people who: hear the gospel message, but "Satan comes and takes away the Word". They hear about Jesus but quickly forget what they have heard.

The Rocky soil (v.5-6) is like those who: are full of joy at what they hear, but "last only a short time." (Mark 4:16-17) They respond well at first but fall away when trouble comes as a result of following Jesus.

The Thorns (v.7) – people who hear the word but worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. (v. 18-19)

The Good Soil (v. 8) – people who hear the word and accept it and continue to be transformed by it living fruitful lives for God producing a crop –thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown. (v. 20)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to break through any human heart, if people will listen and act on by believing what they hear. **Life Group Questions**

1. The Parable of the Sower explains four different responses to the good news. Discuss these different responses to the gospel of Jesus Christ after you read Mark 4 together.
2. How does Satan deceive people today in snatching away the Word? What excuses does he give people to avoid Jesus?
3. What kind of troubles come for those who are the Rocky soil?
4. What are some of the examples of people who are choked by the worries of this life and take away the gospel from them? What is choking your life this week?
5. How would you recognize those who are the good soil?
6. What are the marks of a true follower of Jesus Christ?
7. Which type of soil would you say best describes you?

