

Seed, Soil, and a Secret

- The _____ of the _____
- The sower _____ that gets eaten by birds
 - The sower _____ that sprouts but withers
 - The sower _____ that grows but is unfruitful
 - The sower _____ that produces an abundant harvest.
- The _____ of a _____
- Jesus _____ in parables to those _____
 - Jesus _____ in parables from those _____
 - Do not distort God's Word and conclude that _____
 - Do not distort God's Word and conclude that _____
- The _____ of the _____
- The hard soil _____ is unresponsive.
 - The rocky soil _____ falls away because of hardships.
 - The thorny soil _____ is unfruitful because of selfish desires.
 - The good soil _____ produces fruit.

Personal observations from the message.

1. How would you summarize what you learned in a sentence or two?
2. What was something you didn't know or were reminded of?
3. What point or verse did you find most helpful? Why?
4. What is a question you have?
5. What can you share with someone? Who can you share it with?

Discussion questions from the message.

1. What kind of background or experience do you have with gardening or growing crops? What do you like/dislike about it? Why do you think Jesus uses so many parables related to agriculture?
2. Read Mark 4:1-9. Where did the sower sow? Isn't this wasteful? Why does he sow so freely?
3. Summarize where the seed fell and what happened in each place.
4. Read Mark 4:10-12. Summarize in your own words what Jesus is saying. How does the context (what comes before – 3:22-34 – and after – 4:21-25) help us understand what Jesus means in verses 11-12?
5. Read Mark 4:13-20. What do all the soils have in common? What word is repeated 4x (Hint -- see 4:9). Why is this significant? What is the same/different between the soil types? How does 4:9 relate to this?
6. Discuss what each of the soil types and their responses to the seed might look like in the context of ministry today.
7. The big application points for us are (1) Do the work of a sower (2) Hear and do the Word, and (3) trust the Lord to put all the theology together. What steps do you need to take to be a more faithful sower of the Word? What kind of fruit is your life producing? What can you do to get a better yield?