

## *The Gospel According to Mark*

# Finding Good Topsoil

Mark 4:1-30



5/1/2022 PM

### Introduction:

## I. THE MESSAGE (vs. 1-9)

### A. The Setting (vs. 1-3a)

“He began to teach again by the sea.”

“And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.”

“And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, ‘Listen to this!’ ”

“A parable begins innocently as a picture that arrests our attention and arouses our interest. But as we study the picture, it becomes a mirror in which we suddenly see ourselves. If we continue to look by faith, the mirror becomes a window through which we see God and His truth. How we respond to that truth will determine what further truth God will teach us.”

– Warren Wiersbe

### B. The Story (vs. 3b-9)

“Behold, the sower went out to sow; as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.”

“Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. “And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.”

“Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.”

“Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

“And He was saying, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’ ”

## II. THE MEANING (vs. 10-20)

### A. A Word of Exhortation (vs. 10-13)

“As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables.”

“And He was saying to them, ‘To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables...’ ”

“so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.”

Deuteronomy 29:4; Isaiah 6:9; 44:18; Jeremiah 5:21)

I Corinthians 2:13-14

“And He said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?’ ”  
- it is, after all, one of the easiest parables to understand!

#### B. A Word of Explanation (vs. 14-20)

“The sower sows the word.”

“These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.”

“Each of the three fruitless hearts is influenced by a different enemy: the hard heart - the devil himself snatches the seed; the shallow heart - the flesh counterfeits religious feelings; the crowded heart - the things of the world smother the growth and prevent a harvest. These are the three great enemies of the Christian: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1-3).” – Warren Wiersbe

“In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.”

“And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

“And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

#### Conclusion:

- 1) Personal Application
- 2) Evangelistic Application
- 3) Missional Application