



## 4 Responses to the Gospel

### Mark 4:1-20

1. Read Mark 4:1-13. Why will the disciples gain greater understanding about Jesus' parable (in verse 14-20) according to v. 10?

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- a. What does this tell us about their hearts?

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- b. In this parable, Jesus compares 4 types of soils to 4 types of heart-responses to the gospel (seeds). Why is your response to the gospel (as a lost person or a believer) always dependent on the state of your heart?

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2. According to verses 14-15 – what occurs with the “Hardened Soil Listener”?

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- a. How is the “gospel” (“the word”) like “seed”?

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- b. Why do you think Jesus wants you to understand Satan's involvement in keeping people from God's truth?

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3. According to verses 16-17 – what happens with the “Rocky Soil Listener”?

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- a. How do verses 5-6 give further insight?

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- b. According to the sermon – how is a “Rocky Soil Listener” like a consumer who gets “buyer's remorse”?

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- c. What types of “Christian” things might a Rocky Soil Listener do at first?

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- d. How do we know this person never actually accepted Jesus by faith? See v. 17 and v. 6.

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- e. Are there any difficult stands or sacrifices you've been struggling to make for Jesus lately? Explain and then pray for help.
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4. According to verses 18-19 – what is going on in the heart of a “Thorny Soil Listener”?

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- a. If someone is a Thorny Soil Listener, what may be motivating them to keep making objections against Christianity?
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- b. What is something in the world that has been tempting you to get your eyes off Jesus lately?
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- c. What is the BIG LIE that we're told regarding money in our society (cf. v. 19 “deceitfulness of riches”)?
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- d. How are you specifically tempted to believe the BIG LIE about money?
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- e. How does a proper understanding of who Jesus is, and what He's accomplished for you - free you from craving for worldly pleasures and things?
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5. According to verse 20 – how is the “Fertile Soil Listener” different from the other 3 soils/ hearts?

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- a. What soil condition (heart condition) of the 3 is most tempting for you right now? Why?
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- b. What do you need to do to keep the soil of your heart fertile for God's truth?
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- c. Write down some spiritual fruit that God has brought about in your life since you've been following Jesus.
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