

**KEY TRUTH: *The Doctrine of True & False Conversion***

The seed = the word of God | The sower = Jesus Christ | The soil = the hearts of people | The result = the proof ("*time proves*")

**THE WAY SIDE**

Heart Condition = **HARD**

Result = **UNSAVED**

**STONY GROUND**

Heart Condition = **NO ROOT**

Result = **UNSAVED**

**AMONG THORNS****GOOD GROUND****UNSAVED**

HELL

**SAVED**

HEAVEN

**Mark 4 – The Parable of the Sower (part 3) – Rootless!****INTRODUCTION**

We are studying the Parables of Jesus beginning with *The Parable of the Sower*. Jesus said *it was key to understanding all parables!!* Tonight, our focus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> "ground" where the seed was sown – the **STONY GROUND**. If you have ever heard a person say they were a Christian and their life did **NOT PROVE** it, they may just be a **stony ground** hearer. Every person in this room is represented in one of these four types of heart soils. This could be the most important message you will ever hear.

**SCRIPTURE COMPARISONS****Mark's Gospel**

Parable

**Mark 4:5-6** – And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had **no root**, it withered away.

Interpretation

**Mark 4:16-17** – And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have **no root** in themselves, and so **endure but for a time**: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

**Matthew's Gospel**

Parable

**Matthew 13:5-6** – Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had **no root**, they withered away.

Interpretation

**Matthew 13:20-21** – But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he **not root** in himself, but **dureth for a while**: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

**Luke's Gospel**

Parable

**Luke 8:6** – And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it **lacked moisture**.

Interpretation

**Luke 8:13** – They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have **no root**, which **for a while believe**, and in time of temptation fall away.

## PREACHING NOTES

1. The **second** soil where the seed of the word of God was sown was **on STONY ground...**

- ✓ There are **immediate, outward signs** of conversion as this person **springs up quickly**.  
John 7:24 (*Judge not according to the appearance*); 1 Thes 5:21 (*Prove all things*); Isa 11:3, 4; Jas 2:1, 4, 9
- ✓ They **receive the word** with **gladness and joy** – a shallow **UNDERSTANDING** (*no depth of earth*).  
Mark 6:20 (*Herod heard John gladly*); 10:17-22; Ezek 33:31, 32; Acts 8:13, 18-21 (*Simon*); 24:25, 26 (*Felix*)
- ✓ They have **not counted the cost** of surrendering all to the **LORD** Jesus Christ.  
Luke 14:26-35 (*counteth the cost*); Joshua 24:19-24; Luke 8:13 (*for a while believe*); Jas 2:19, 26; 1 Jo 2:19

**NOTE** The **stony ground** hearer is **not initially offended** by the word of God. In fact, they are quite the opposite. Because there is not much earth (as they have not counted the cost), they **immediately give the appearance of someone who is truly saved** or born again. However, as we will see, **the proof** of who they are lies in the future. **Do not be fooled.**

2. Because there is **no ROOT**, when promised **affliction, persecution, tribulation** and **temptation** comes, the **false convert** will “*wither*” or “*fall away*” having **never truly been** “*in Christ*.”

- ✓ Jesus is called **the ROOT**, and **the VINE**.  
Isaiah 11:10 (*a root of Jesse*); John 15 (*the vine*); Rom 11:16-18; 15:12; Rev 5:5; 22:16; Eph 3:17; Col 2:10
- ✓ If you do not have **the ROOT in you**, you **CANNOT be saved**.  
John 1:12; Romans 3:24 (*in Christ*); 8:1; 12:5; 16:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 15:22; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 5:17; Galatians 1:22; 3:26, 28; 6:15; Ephesians 1:1, 3, 10, 12, 20; 2:6, 10, 13; 3:6; Philippians 1:1; 4:21; Colossians 1:2, 4, 28; 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; 4:16; 1 Tim 3:13; 2 Tim 1:1, 9; 2:1, 10; 3:15; 1 Peter 5:14
- ✓ The **SUN** is promised **affliction, persecution, tribulation** and **temptation** for the WORD’S sake.  
Isaiah 25:4; Jonah 4:8; Ps 1:3, 4; 92:13-15; 2 Tim 3:12 (*all that will live godly*); Heb 12:6, 7 (*chastening*)
- ✓ The **SUN** reveals what we cannot see – **the TRUTH** – behind the appearance of a believer.  
Matthew 7:15-20 (*by their fruits ye shall know them*); Romans 7:4; Proverbs 6:23 (*the law is light*)

**Matthew 7:16**  
... ye shall  
know them by  
their **fruits**.

**Romans 7:4**  
... that we should  
bring forth **fruit**  
unto God.

**NOTE** The seed that falls on the **stony ground heart** does not take root and produce fruit. They **remain unconverted**. This person will **deceive believers** (who will not witness to them because they profess to be saved) and will be a **stumbling block for unbelievers** who say, “*If this person is a Christian, I do not want it.*” It is time to speak the truth in love. We must stop calling people “*saved*” who do not prove it. If there is **no FRUIT** ... there is **no ROOT**!

What are the **fruits** of someone who is soundly saved? (Rom 7:4; Mt 7:15-20)

- ❖ The fruit of **repentance** – Mt 3:8; Lk 19:8
- ❖ The fruit of **good works** – Col 1:10; Titus 3:8; Mt 5:16
- ❖ The fruit of **thanksgiving** – Heb 13:15; Eph 5:19-20; Rev 5:9-14
- ❖ The fruit of **the Spirit** – Gal 5:22-23; Eph 5:8-9
- ❖ The fruit of **righteousness** – Phil 1:11; Heb 12:11; Jam 3:17-18; Ps 23:3; Prov 8:20

## Personal Application

- ❖ What did God say to you through His Word today? **Examine yourselves. Repent and obey God.**

**2 Corinthians 13:5** – Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (“reprobates” = unbelievers)