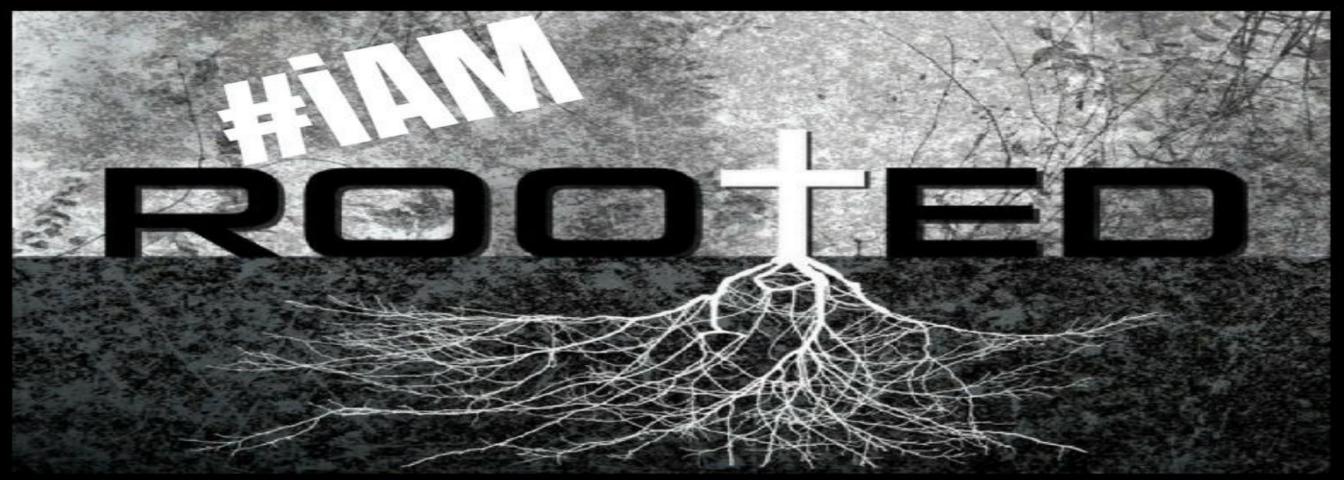
#### **#iAM Sermon Series**



### Mark 4-1-20

Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

<sup>3</sup> "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain.<sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" <sup>9</sup> Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

MARK 4:1-9

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? <sup>14</sup> The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. <sup>15</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. <sup>16</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. <sup>18</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup> but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.<sup>20</sup> And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

MARK 4:13-20

The Soils (Hearts):

SOIL (Hearts): 15 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. HARD SOIL (Hearts): 15 The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

# Satan doesn't want the Word (Seed) of God's Word to take ROOT!

This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: "Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns.

Jeremiah 4:3

NLT

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

Hosea 10:12

NLT

SOIL (Hearts):

16 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 17 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

#### **ROCKY** SOIL (Hearts):

16 The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. 17 But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. Rocky Soil individuals are *not* always attacked directly by Satan but by *Problems* and *Persecution* for believing in the Word of GOD!

## Don't litter to rule our HEARTS contaminating our SOIL –

### Don't litter *Bitterness* to rule our HEARTS contaminating our SOIL –

Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.

Hebrews 12:15

The Message SOIL (Hearts):

18 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, 19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

#### **DISTRACTED** SOIL (Hearts):

18 The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, 19 but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

#### This is a SOIL or HEART that's too fertile... Everything grows... That's why we must Guard our HEARTS...

#### But crowed out by That's why we must Guard our HEARTS...

#### But crowed out by *Distractions*... That's why we must Guard our HEARTS...

# Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23

NLT

SOIL (Hearts): 20 And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" **PRODUCTIVE** SOIL (Hearts): 20 And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

### God's WORD or SEED Never returns VOID!!!

#### Hearing – comes by hearing:

#### Hearing – Faith comes by hearing:

"So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ."

Romans 10:17

NLT

#### Accepting –

#### Accepting – Obey

#### "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."

James 1:22

NLT

## Producing – 30, 60, 100: Don't get caught up in just keep producing!

Producing – 30, 60, 100: Don't get caught up in *comparing* just keep producing!

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

NLT