

The EcoSystem of the Human Heart

April 21, 2024

“The heart of all this evil is idolatry itself. It is the de-godding of God. It is the creature swinging his puny fist in the face of his Maker and saying, in effect, If you do not see things my way. I’ll make my own gods! I’ll be my own god!” -- DA Carson

Introduction:

Text: Mark 4:1-20

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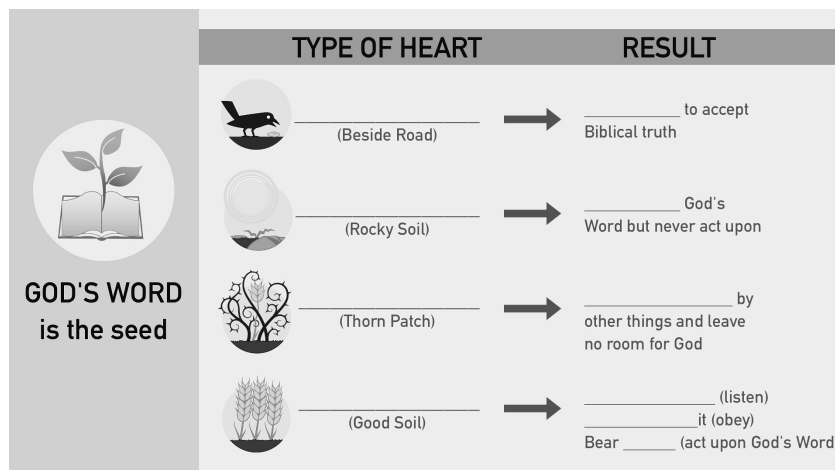
Big Idea: God’s truth is deposited in my life in _____ form, germination in the soil must happen for fruit to grow from that seed.

#1-My inner life (ecosystem) determines my _____ to the message of Jesus (4:1-13)

- The **message** Jesus taught (4:1)
- The **parables** Jesus used to teach (4:2)
 - The parables of Jesus were memorable stories intended to provoke Kingdom learning and living.
 - Jesus’ teaching required the hearers to possess spiritual openness and mental diligence.
 - The same teaching of Jesus can cause the repentant to receive more and the rebellious to resist more.
- The **mission** Jesus assigned was to proclaim a message of _____ (3:14; 6:12)
 - Essentially, the Bible defines **sin as an _____** problem, a **conflict over the issue of control**
 - **My kingdom vs. God’s Kingdom**
 - This is the problem the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was designed to solve!
 - **Sin is a kingdom issue**
 - As a Kingdom issue it inevitably produces animosity, hostility, and conflict toward God.
 - The crucifixion of Jesus demonstrates how far human beings will go to protect and preserve their kingdoms.
 - **What is Repentance?**
 - An appropriate response to _____.
 - In Scripture, it is consistently used in connection with “the kingdom” of God.
 - It means to turn from one kingdom to another...literally to change SIDES.

#2- The key to a healthy inner life is to _____ your heart to regularly hear from God (4:14-20)

- QUESTION: **What kind of heart (soil) do I typically bring:**
 - to my personal devotional time?
 - to other occasions where the Word of God is taught?



TRUTH INTO ACTION:

- Make sure you are in Jesus' family. **It begins with REPENTANCE.**
- Jesus has a history of changing the course of human lives. **Learn to LISTEN and let him change your life!**
- A life changed by Jesus is a life that obeys what he says. **Be willing to OBEY!**
- A transformed life is **happy to SHARE with others.**

CONNECT CARD NEXT STEP:

#1-Check your life to see if you have "opened" any doors or "unlocked" any windows making space for Satan's influence.

#2-Let us know how we can help you and pray for you.

Pray first†



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Do you enjoy planting a garden? Share some stories of why.

Review the sermon and prayerfully ponder this question: Which description best summarizes your spiritual life over the last 6 months?

- Deceived
- Shallow
- Crowded (distracted)
- Receptive (fruitful)

Closing Prayer: Thank for defeating our enemy Satan on the Cross and securing his defeat on resurrection Sunday. Guide me and help me to live aware of my enemy but confident and fearless in Jesus victory. Amen!

Resources: R. C. Sproul, The Gospel of Mark; Tim Keller, Christ the King; Life Application Bible Commentary, Mark; Jason Meyer, Mark for You; Gaebelin (Ed.), The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Mark