






Which One Are You?

 Date Delivered	May 3, 2026
 Lesson Number	Lesson 5
 Primary Scripture	Mark 4:1-20
 Speaker	Apostle Tyronne McCreaery
 Summary	A heart-diagnostic from Mark 4 showing how posture determines access to the mysteries of the Kingdom, and calling believers to cultivate “good ground” through hearing that leads to obedience.

HIM: The Gospel of Christ According to Mark – Lesson 5: Which One Are You?

Date: May 3, 2026



Primary Text: Mark 4:1-20

I. Introduction

- **Definition of “Outside”:** Not distance, but disposition—how one responds to truth.
- Jesus’ statement (Mark 4:10-12):
 - “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom... but to those who are outside, all things come in parables.”

- **Key Point:** "You are not 'outside' because you lack access—you are outside because of how you respond."
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II. Understanding "Those on the Outside"

- **Key Thought:** "Outside" is not about location—it is about posture and response.
 - Jesus is **not** referring to:
 - The curious
 - The hungry
 - The seeking
 - Jesus **is** referring to those who:
 - Repeatedly reject revelation
 - Resist truth
 - Refuse to respond
 - Scriptures:
 - **Mark 4:10–12**
 - **John 12:37–40**
 - **Isaiah 6:9–10**
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III. Posture Determines Access

- Scripture: **Mark 4:9** — "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
 - **Key Thought:** Hearing is not about ability—it is about disposition.
 - Supporting Scriptures:
 - **Ezekiel 12:2**
 - **Jeremiah 5:20–21**
 - **Key Statement:** Posture can cost you everything with God.
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IV. The Principle of Hardened Hearts

- **Key Thought:** Hardness is not instant—it is developed through repeated resistance to truth.



Greek Word Studies

- **Blinded (typhloō):** To dull perception, obscure understanding
- **Hardened (pōroō):** To become calloused, insensitive

- **Key Principle:** Repeated rejection of truth leads to reduced capacity to receive truth.

V. Hebraic Insight: The “Idiom of Permission”

- **Key Thought:** God is often described as doing what He permits.
- Examples:
 - Pharaoh hardened his heart → then God confirmed it (**Exodus 8:15; 9:12**)
 - **Psalm 81:11–12** — “I gave them over...”
- **Meaning:** God confirms the direction a person continually chooses.

VI. Understanding True “Hearing”



Greek Word: akouō (Hear)

- Listen with attention
- Understand
- Obey

- **Key Thought:** Hearing in Scripture always includes response.

VII. Hebrew Understanding of “Shema”

- Scripture: **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- **Key Thought:** To hear is to respond, obey, and be transformed.

Hebrew Letter Breakdown (שמע)

Press, consume, engage deeply :**(Shin)** ש •

Flow, Spirit, life-giving truth :**(Mem)** מ •

See, perceive, understand :**(Ayin)** ע •

- **Key Thought:** Hearing means pressing into truth until it changes how you see and live.

VIII. Warning to Disciples: Hardness Can Develop

- Scripture: **Mark 8:14–18**
- **Key Thought:** Hardness is not just rejection—it can be untransformed exposure.
- What happened:
 - They saw miracles
 - They heard teaching
 - But failed to connect revelation
- **Key Issue:** They did not remember or apply what they had already experienced.

IX. How Hardness Develops

- **Key Thought:** Hardness develops when revelation is present, but reflection and application are absent.
- Key indicators:

- Hearing without applying
 - Seeing without perceiving
 - Experiencing without changing
 - **Key Statement:** Exposure without transformation leads to dullness.
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X. Why Jesus Spoke in Parables

- **Key Thought:** Parables reveal truth to the willing and conceal truth from the resistant.
 - For the willing:
 - They lean in
 - They ask
 - They stay engaged
 - For the hardened:
 - They hear but don't respond
 - They see but don't discern
 - They walk away unchanged
 - **Key Statement:** Parables do not hide truth from the hungry—they expose those who aren't.
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XI. The Parable of the Sower: A Heart Diagnostic

- Foundation truths:
 - Same seed (Word of God)
 - Same sower
 - Different outcomes
 - **Key Point:** The problem is never the Word—it is the condition of the heart.
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XII. The Four Heart Conditions

1) Wayside (Hardened Heart)

- Scripture: **Mark 4:15**
- **Key Thought:** The Word never penetrates.
- Characteristics:
 - Closed off
 - Resistant
 - Unresponsive
- Reflection question: Do I hear the Word, but it never truly gets in me?

2) Stony Ground (Shallow Heart)

- Scripture: **Mark 4:16–17**
- **Key Thought:** Receives quickly but cannot endure.
- Characteristics:
 - Emotional response
 - No depth
 - Falls under pressure
- Reflection question: Is my faith deep enough to survive pressure?

3) Thorny Ground (Divided Heart)

- Scripture: **Mark 4:18–19**
- **Key Thought:** The Word is choked by competing priorities.
- Characteristics:
 - Worry
 - Deceitfulness of riches
 - Desire for other things

- Reflection question: What is competing with God in my life?

4) Good Ground (Receptive Heart)

- Scripture: **Mark 4:20**
 - **Key Thought:** The Word produces fruit.
 - Characteristics:
 - Open
 - Rooted
 - Consistent
 - Productive
 - Reflection question: Is there fruit in my life that proves the Word is working?
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XIII. Your Response Determines Your Access

- **Key Thought:**
 - Lean in → More revelation
 - Pull back → Less understanding
 - **Key Statement:** The difference between receiving from God and missing God is the condition of your heart.
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XIV. Application: Cultivating Good Ground

1. **Guard your heart** — be aware of resistance forming
 2. **Remember what God has done** — let past revelation shape present response
 3. **Reflect on the Word** — don't just hear it, process it
 4. **Apply immediately** — turn revelation into action
 5. **Remove distractions** — eliminate competing priorities
 6. **Stay rooted** — remain consistent in truth
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XV. Closing Thought: Which One Are You?

- **Key Thought:** You don't determine the seed—but you are responsible for the soil.
 - The Word is being sown... the question is: **What kind of heart is receiving it?**
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Key Scriptures to Meditate and Memorize

- **Mark 4:1–20**
- **Mark 4:9–12**
- **Mark 8:14–18**
- **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- **Psalms 81:11–12**
- **Isaiah 6:9–10**
- **John 12:37–40**