

# GOOD SOIL AND EVANGELISM

Reference

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**Note:** The following are the pastor's notes used in preaching this message. This is not a complete, word-for-word transcription of what was preached. These notes serve as a companion to the complete message, which is available by listening to the audio version. Bible quotes are primarily from NASB and ESV, respectively.

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## INTRODUCTION

The context of preaching leading up to Mark 4:21-32

### A. Introduction to Mark - Mark 1:1-15

Mark 1:14-15 - "...and after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"

### B. Jesus preaches the gospel - Mark 1:16-2:17

The main purpose of the section is in Mark 1:35-39

Mark 1:38 - "'...Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for.'"

### C. Varied responses to the gospel - Mark 2:18-3:35

Mark 3:13-14 - "And He went up to the mountain and summoned those whom He Himself wanted, and they came to Him. And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach..."

### D. Exegeting the responses to the gospel - Mark 4:1-20

The parable of the soils explains the negative responses, hearts are hard but...

Mark 4:20 - "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it, and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

The disciples would become the good soil that the seed of the gospel would grow in and at the height of their maturity would scatter the gospel seed to the nations. Jesus came to preach the gospel and His disciples would do the same. Following the parable of the soils is our text Mark 4:21-32 where we are given:

Four lessons in parables which further explain the good soil and evangelism

1. Good soil makes the gospel known (Mark 4:21-23)
2. Good soil realizes their spiritual vitality depends on evangelism (Mark 4:24-25)
3. Good soil expects powerful results from the gospel (Mark 4:26-29)
4. Good soil anticipates inordinate blessings from the gospel (Mark 4:30-32)

Four applications to evangelism for NorthCreek Church

1. Evangelism is about sharing the gospel

Evangelism is not:

- a. Evangelism is not political action
- b. Evangelism is not living a good life
- c. Evangelism is not participating in a service or mercy project
- d. Evangelism is not sharing your testimony
- e. Evangelism is not apologetics
- f. Evangelism is not inviting a person to a Christian event or even to church

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Evangelism is:  
Evangelism is personally proclaiming the message of the gospel to a lost person and calling them to biblically respond in faith and repentance

2. Evangelism must be a priority

Local evangelism is here to train you, encourage you, and give you opportunities to personally proclaim the gospel on a regular basis.

3. Evangelism is more caught than taught

Evangelism is more than a desire, theology, philosophy, or an intention, but a way of life that Jesus modeled to His disciples.

4. Evangelism is for reaching people who don't know the gospel

If you have an idea to reach out and have a desire to do evangelism in the community, go to [northcreek.org](http://northcreek.org) and fill out an "Innovate" form on the local evangelism page.

## CONCLUSION

Let's aim high in local evangelism and put our light on the highest shelf possible. Let's make Christ known and see what God will do through His gospel seed. Let's sow the gospel seed broadly and pray expectantly for many to come into the kingdom of God.