

SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET IT
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. ² He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴ As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. ⁸ 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!" ⁹ Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Mark 4:1-9 (NLT)

Question of Today:
God always PROVIDES... Are you ready to RECIEVE?

Truth of Today:
The problem is not the power of the SEED, it's the problem of the HEART.

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

1. It's the problem of the HARDENED Heart! - FAILURE to Respond!

"The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. 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."

Mark 4:14-15 (NLT)

"The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts."

Matthew 13:19 (NLT)

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

James 1:22

"As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them."

Matthew 13:4

2. It's a problem of the STONY Heart! – SHALLOW Response.

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."

Mark 4:16-17 (NLT)

3. It's the problem of the CLUTTERED Heart! – DISTRACTED.

"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."

Mark 4:18-19 (NLT)

Three Things That Choke God's Growth in Your Life:

1. We are distracted with WORRY!

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

2. The desire for RICHES!

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be."

Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)

3. The PLEASURES for the world!

The problem is not the power of the seed... when there is a GOOD Heart! – RESPONSIVE and Focused!

"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 4:20 (NLT)

1. If the Lord's seed has taken root, it always REFLECTS the tree.

"You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit."

Matthew 7:16-17 (NLT)

2. It EXISTS for the BENEFIT of someone else.

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25 (NLT)

"Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Mark 4:9 (NLT)