



## The Gospel of Mark Following Christ

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### Parable of the Sower and Its Interpretation

Mark 4:1-20

January 8, 2017

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**Theme:** The parable of the Sower follows the climax of Jesus’ opposition where He was accused of casting out demons by Satan’s power. His teaching in parables both reveals the truth to those who hear, and conceals the truth to those hardened to Jesus’ message. This first parable reveals the need to hear and respond to the message Jesus brings, the Kingdom of God has come in the person of Jesus. Various responses are seen using agricultural metaphors.

### **Outline**

1. The Parable of the Sower (4:1-9)
  - a. Three examples of failed seed/soil (4:3-7)
    - 1) Seed along the path (4:3-4)
    - 2) Seed on rocky ground (4:5-6)
    - 3) Seed among the thorns (4:7)
  - b. Three examples of seed on good soil – a harvest (4:8)
  - c. Jesus’ exhortation – LISTEN! (4:9)

2. The secret of the Kingdom of God (4:10-12)
  - a. The question from the disciples (4:10)
  
  - b. Jesus' response (4:11-12)
  
3. Interpretation of the parable (4:13-20)
  - a. Rebuke - the seed is the message of the Kingdom (4:13,14)
  
  - b. The interpretation of the failed seeds (4:15-19)
    - 1) Along the path: Satan snatches away (4:15)
    - 2) On rocky ground: trouble and persecution (4:16-17)
    - 3) Among the thorns: cares of the world (4:18-19)
    - 4) Interpretation of the good soil (4:20)

**Takeaway:** We need to proclaim and respond to the message of the kingdom. The need to repent and believe is for all people everywhere. This parable demonstrates there are only two kinds of people: those who accept the kingdom and its King and those who reject them.

**Next Cove: January 15, 2017**

More Parables

Mark 4:21-34