7-18-2010, COTR Texarkana
Title: Go Deeper
Purpose: Provoke people to go deeper in their relationship with God
Spiritual Truth: The deeper you go the stronger you become and the more fruit you produce.
Text: Mk 4:2-20
Topic: Roots, Spiritual Growth, Word of God, Parable of the Sower,

Go Deeper

I. Introduction

A. **Have you ever wondered why the Bible effects people differently**

1. Some people think it's just a fairy tale.
2. Some people get real excited about it but later lose interest.
3. Some people believe it but are too busy to read it.
4. Other people's lives are transformed by it. Knowing God and pleasing Him is the most important thing in their life.

B. **Jesus told a parable about the effect God's Word has on different people**

Mark 4:2-20 (NLT) [Bible guide reading] 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!"

1. A plant is supposed to avoid birds and weeds and grow deep roots so it can produce a lot of fruit.
2. The parable isn't about plants it's about how people are affected differently by God's Word.

C. **Verse 17** explains verse 5: **But since they don't have deep roots, (**(NCV) **since they don't allow the teaching to go deep into their lives) they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.**

1. Today I want to focus on your root system. Is it shallow or deep and growing?

D. **Title: Go Deeper**

E. **Purpose: Provoke people to go deeper in their relationship with God**

F. **Spiritual Truth: The deeper you go the stronger you become and the more fruit you produce.**

II. Why are roots so important?

A. **Video: U-tube: time lapse radish seeds sprouting**

1. Center screen picture

B. **Roots do two things.**

1. They provide stability so the plant won't fall over in a storm.
   a.

U-Tube Video: Growing Giant Corn

2. They absorb food and water for growth so the plant can produce fruit.

C. **Spiritual parallels:**

1. The Christian life is like a swimming pool. We start out in the shallow end and "go deeper" till we get to the deep end.
2. A Christian with "deep roots":
   a. Won't give up their faith when problems come.
   b. Will produce much fruit for the KOG.
      i. John 15:8 (NLT)
         8 **When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.**
      ii. This fruit is Christian character, aka the fruit of the Spirit.
      iii. They will win souls and make disciples.
      iv. You can't do either one without "deep roots".
3. "Deep Roots" will help you find truth and the life giving "water" of the Spirit.

III. What does a Christian with "deep roots" look like?

A. **Illustrate with the prayers of children…cute and deep**

1. A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm **having a real good time** like I am."
2. One night Mike's parents overheard this prayer. "Now I lay me down to rest, and hope to pass tomorrow's test, if I should die before I wake, that's **one less test I have to take**."
3. A five-year-old said grace at family dinner one night. "Dear God, thank you for these pancakes." When he concluded, his parents asked him why he **thanked God for pancakes** when they were having chicken. He smiled and said, "I thought I'd see if He was paying attention tonight."
   a. These prayers are all cute but kids who "Go Deeper" pray powerfully.
4. Rebekah's letter, 10 year old about prayer. Wednesday night in Kid Zone.
5. When kids can go deeper they pray powerful prayers.
6. Some adults with shallow roots still pray cute prayers. To go from cute to powerful you've got to go deeper.
   a. A Christian can have shallow roots or deep roots. What kind of roots do you have?

IV. How do you grow deep roots? How do you "Go Deeper" in your relationship with God?

A. **Get rid of the rocks** (In Jesus' parable the rocks kept the roots from going deeper.)

1. If we want to go deeper it just makes sense that we've got to get rid of the things that stop our roots.
2. Example: throwing out rocks in my garden
3. Like plant growth, spiritual growth happens naturally if there are no obstacles.
4. Rocks can be anything that is stopping you from going deeper.
   a. Rocky people: The people influencing you and the places you're going.
      i. Lots of people wanted to go to church today but had a hangover or had to go to a Pharmacy to get the morning after pill.
   b. Rocky habits: Example…porn on the computer; your hobby can turn into a time consuming idol…

B. **Get your heart right**

1. The starting place for "Going Deeper" is a heart that says yes to God
    a. Psalm 42:1-2 (NLT)
        1 …**As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God**.
        2 I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?
    b. Christianity is more than laws and commandments. It is 1st and foremost a personal relationship with God.
2. If your heart is hungry for God spiritual growth won't be a problem. When I was in Alaska nobody had to tell me to find a life giving church or a Christian bookstore. My heart was hungry for God.
3. If your heart is cold, indifferent or apathetic to God you must look for Him till you find Him.
4. Jeremiah 29:13 (ESV)
    13 **You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart**.

C. **Practice good spiritual habits**

1. Daily Bible reading
    a. Acts 17:11 (NCV)
        11 …The Bereans were eager to hear what Paul and Silas said **and studied the Scriptures every day to find out if these things were true.**
2. Daily time with God in prayer
    a. Matthew 14:23 (ESV)
        23 … **he went up on the mountain by himself to pray…**
3. Regular involvement in church
    a. Acts 2:41-42 (NLT)
        41 **Those who believed what Peter said were baptized …42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.**
4. Reaching people and making disciples
    a. Mark 16:15 (NKJV) [Jesus last words to his followers]
        15 …**"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**
    b. Matthew 28:19 (ESV)
        19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations…**
            i. These 4 habits will make you go deeper and bear fruit for Jesus.

V. Conclusion

A. **Psalm 1:1-3 (NCV)**

1 Happy are those who don't listen to the wicked, who don't go where sinners go, who don't do what evil people do. 2 They love the Lord's teachings, and they think about those teachings day and night. 3 **They are strong, like a tree planted by a river. The tree produces fruit in season,** and its leaves don't die. Everything they do will succeed.

1. This is the kind of life we all went to live.
2. Summer will be over soon…it's time to go deeper.
3. Summary:
    a. Get rid of the rocks
    b. Get your heart right
    c. Practice good spiritual habits

B. **Communion**

1. Testimonies: How my life changed when I decided to go deeper.

VI. **Response**

A. **Souls…Join COTR**