

Jesus: The One Who Transforms the Heart

Mark 4:1-20

Intro:

[This is a big day – Happy Super bowl Sunday! But it’s also a big week – Valentines Week – how many of you men had forgotten Valentines Day?!]
[So on this Valentines week – want to tell you – Jesus loves you, & He wants to transform your heart – He is the most magnificent heart surgeon!]
[He loves you just as you are – but He loves you too much to leave you just as you are – he wants to transform your heart!]

[Image]	[Speaking of heart transformation] E.g. I told you in the past about my Dad – heart was diseased, close to death, surgeon went to the depths and saved his heart & life!
[Need]	Does your heart need surgery? (a) Your Heart is the Core – E.g. Diagram – thoughts & beliefs / conscience & conviction / will & worldview / emotions & passions (b) Your Heart is the Control Centre – Proverbs 4:23 – E.g. Getting up at 3am to read Carrie’s e mails = my heart controlling me! (c) Your Heart is Corrupted by Sin – Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23
[Subject]	Jesus loves you, & He wants to transform your heart – He is the most magnificent heart surgeon! He loves you just as you are – but he loves you too much to leave you as you are.
[Text]	Mark 4:1-20
[Preview]	Watch out for 4 types of soil (which represents 4 types of heart), 3 things that compete against transformation of the heart, & 1 way / very clear pathway Jesus says he wants to transform your heart

Context: This is a Discipleship Section (cf. Mark 3:13-19 ... Mark 3:7–6:6a is all 1 discipleship section where he is revealing identity) Where Jesus is on a Mission Proclaiming & Offering the Kingdom (Mark 4:11 – already been proclaiming it, now explaining it to 12) Explaining All the Reactions to the Word of the Kingdom & Word of God (cf. Mark 4:9-14 – ever seeing, never perceiving etc.) So he tells them this parable – farmer = God/Jesus; seed = word of kingdom/word of God; Soils = hearts

I. Satan will do Anything He Can to Stop the Word from Impacting an Individual’s Heart (v3-4, 15)

Mark 4 v 3: ‘Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

¹⁵Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan [immediately] comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

- Scattering Seed – probably with apron, scattering everywhere, wants a harvest everywhere!
- Some falls on a path – no fences in Israeli fields, pathways around & through fields, rock hard from top to bottom, seed can’t get in
- Suddenly Satan swoops – speed of attack – as soon as they hear it, immediately Satan rises to attack and descend, swoops like bird
- Snatches:
 - o Satan’s ‘adversary’ – elsewhere spoken of as the devil / accuser / god of this world / evil one / snake
 - o Spoken of in 7 OT Books, & every single NT book
 - o Spoken of 29 times in the gospels (89 chapters in Matthew-Mark-Luke-John ... that’s once every 3 chapters!)
 - o 24 of those times from the lips of Jesus!
 - o Satan was a brilliant angel, banished because of his evil, engaged in titanic battle with God & creation, blinds eyes from the glory and grace of Jesus (2 Cor 4:4); is the father of lies - hates the bible for he knows it sets people free, leads to life!
- I’ve seen this on many occasions – e.g. Norman’s funeral – 100’s unbelievers in overflow, exact moment gospel shared, no sound!
- I’ve seen it here – few months ago, individual came straight for me, started accusing, sensed darkness, strategic battle around Satan
- MTR: How’s your heart? Is this you? A hard heart from top to bottom, which Jesus wants to transform, but Satan is swooping
- Satan will do anything he can to stop the word from impacting an individual’s heart – whether unbeliever or believer

II. Shallowness & Hardness in the Depths will Stop the Word from Impacting an Individual’s Heart (v5-6, 16-17)

Mark 4 v 5-6: Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

¹⁶Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

- Rocky Ground – E.g. Draw pic on whiteboard of shallow surface, hidden limestone
- Receives (at once) word with joy – v. 17 – soft on surface – initial reception
- Rootless – hardness in the depths – resistance in the depths
- Really tough events happen – trouble (pressure), persecution (opposition)
- E.g. Friend in Belfast – remember her smile, seeing her stand with hands lifted high, single – with deep desire, given heart to this, started to date this guy who did not know the Lord (cf. 2 Cor 6:14), we pled with her to wait & hold onto God’s word for his best, she got married & 1 year later separated – she is nowhere today with the Lord.
- And I think of hidden hardness in my heart – oh Lord, come and soften me in the depths, make me open to your word no matter what

III. Worldly Worries & Want of Wealth will Choke out the Word from Impacting an Individual's Heart (v7, 18-19)

Mark 4 v 7: Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.

¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- Word makes its way into the ears
- Worries & wealth & wanting the world
- Wrap around the word & choke it out
- E.g. John Piper – Bob & Deb (59 & 51) – Don't waste your life
- E.g. Friend in Belfast – 40 years sitting in church, giving himself to career & dream of good life – woke up – what have I done w. my life?
- MTR: Is that you? How's your heart? Oh Lord, come and soften our hearts and remove that which would choke out your word!

IV. The Heart Jesus Loves to Transform is a Soft Heart, Open to Allowing God's Word to Go to the Depths, & Obeying it No Matter What the Cost (v8, 20)

Mark 4 v 8: Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.'

²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

- Soft Soil – not hard, not shallow, no thorns or weeds (removed over time)
- Sinks to the depths – listen! Let him hear! Let the word not only sink but sit there and spread!
- Stunning growth – x 30, x 60, x 100 what was sown – 1 sermon, 1 daily practice of sitting under the word, 3 months of journaling ...

V. Jesus Loves You & Wants to Transform Your Heart – He is the Most Magnificent Heart Surgeon [HP]

- Before You Hear the Word: Ponder & Pray
- During the Hearing of the Word: Humble & Heart
- After You Hear the Word: Sit & Spread


FOLLOW

JESUS THROUGH THE BOOK OF MARK

PART 1: FOLLOW THE PERSON OF JESUS







Thoughts
& Beliefs

Will &
Worldview

Conscience & Convictions

Emotions &
Passions

'Above all else, guard your heart, for from it everything else flows'

PROVERBS 4:23

'For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come - sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.'

MARK 7:21-23

I. Satan will do Anything He Can to Stop the Word from Impacting an Individual's Heart

(v3-4, 15)

3'Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ... 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan [immediately] comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

MARK 4:3-4, 15



II. Shallowness & Hardness in the Depths will Stop the Word from Impacting an Individual's Heart (v5-6, 16-17)

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root ... 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

MARK 4:5-6, 16-17

III. Worldly Worries & Want of Wealth will Choke out the Word from Impacting an Individual's Heart (v7, 18-19)

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain ... 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

MARK 4:7, 18-19

IV. The Heart Jesus Loves to Transform is a Soft Heart, Open to Allowing God's Word to Go to the Depths, & Obeying it No Matter What the Cost (v8, 20)

8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times' ... 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

MARK 4:8, 20

**JESUS LOVES YOU & WANTS TO TRANSFORM YOUR HEART
– HE IS THE MOST MAGNIFICENT HEART SURGEON**

Before You Hear the Word: PRAY & PONDER

As You Hear the Word: HUMILITY & HEART

After You Hear the Word: SIT & SPREAD