

The Way of a Servant: Mark The Heart's Response

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. (Mark 4:1)

From the boat, Jesus tells a story about spiritual responsiveness...

*Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.
(vv. 3-8)*

- ***The elements: a generous Sower (God); the seed (His word); and the soil (our hearts).***

🔑 ***Key insight: which elements in the story remain constant and which element changes?***

Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (v. 9)

Jesus then explains the types of "soil" where His word may fall...

- ***Some seed falls on hard soil – (v. 4, 15)***

The unresponsive heart prevents salvation

- ***Some seed falls on rocky soil – (vv. 5-6, 16-17)***

The shallow heart prevents perseverance

- ***Some seed falls on cluttered soil – (vv. 7, 18-19)***

The cluttered heart prevents maturity

...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Heb. 12:1b)

- ***Some seed falls on good soil – (vv. 8, 20)***

The soft, deep and undivided heart produces an unbelievable harvest

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)