

JESUS...WHAT'S THE STORY!

Week 1: Parable of the Soils

Mark 4:1-20

Pastor Mel Svendsen
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INTRO: What are parables?

- "Earthly Story with a Heavenly Meaning."
- Using well-known life experiences to explain spiritual truths.
- They seek to engage open-minded people in the teaching process.
- They frustrate those who are hard-hearted towards the truth. (Mark 4:11)
- Most parables are focusing on one main spiritual truth or point.

Bottom Line:

The Lord is doing His work in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, but we must constantly monitor and optimize the condition of our heart.

1. Hardened Soil = Heart condition of _____.

Mark 4:15

Three common areas of resistance:

- A. Church
- B. C _____
- C. Christ

Satan...

Created angel who rebelled against God (Ezekiel 28:14-17)

Satan and the angels (became demons) who rebelled with him were cast out of heaven (2 Peter 2:4; John 10:18)

Spoke to and confronted Jesus during His earthly ministry. (Luke 4)

Seeks to destroy the work of God in people's lives. (1 Peter 5:8)

2. Shallow Soil = Heart condition of incomplete

_____. Mark 4:16-17

Symptoms of a shallow commitment:

A. Wanting to be stirred up, fired up, but not wanting to _____ up, speak up, or give up.

B. Wanting deeper understanding without wanting a deeper _____.

C. Wanting to be fed, but not wanting to _____.

D. Wanting the religious experience without the radical transformation.

3. Crowded Soil = Heart condition of unhealthy

_____. Mark 4:18-19

Four "choking" hazards:

- A. _____ - putting other things in God's place. v. 19
- B. Doubt - diminishing God's power & wisdom. v. 19
- C. Discontentment - wanting _____ from God. v. 19
- D. Over "doing" - finding significance in high activity. v. 19

4. Good Soil = Heart condition of productive

_____. Mark 4:20