

LOGF NOTES 10.14.18

The Book of Mark: Can You Hear Me Now?

Tim Hobson, Lead Pastor

Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:3-20

Four Responses to the Word of God:

1. **PATH:** —Satan steals —Doesn't receive the truth into the heart —Immediately

Q: How can you avoid having God's Word stolen from you?

Mark 4:9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

A: Listen intently to what God is saying and open your heart to accept it. Don't be distracted, don't be passive, don't be apathetic...be intentional, be hungry, be alert to hear what God is saying.

2. **ROCKS:** —Persecution/Trouble —Not Rooted —Quickly

Q: How can you move out of the rocky soil and not fall away?

A: Be rooted.

1. Rooted in the Love of God. Prioritize worshipping God on Sundays.
2. Rooted in the Body of Christ. Get connected in a Life Group...in relationships.
3. Rooted in the Word of God. Develop a devotional life and spiritual disciplines to grow.

When persecution comes, when trouble comes...the love of God, the Body of Christ and the Word of God provide the strength and wisdom and support you need to not fall away!

3. **THORNS/WEEDS:** —Worldly Thinking —Not Gardened —Gradual

A WORLDLY MIND:

1. WORRIES of this life

Matthew 6:33-34 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

2. PURSUING MONEY for security, significance, comfort

Matthew 6:24 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

3. DESIRES for other things

Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Q: How can you avoid the thorns from choking out the fruitfulness of your life?

A: Garden your heart.

1. We need times of gardening. Pull the weeds out...and do it while they are small!
Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

2. We need times of renewed commitment.

Joshua 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

- A. Daily devote
- B. Weekly worship
- C. Yearly retreat

3. We need times of re-prioritizing.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- A. God is first
- B. Family is second
- C. Work is third

4. GOOD SOIL

So what is this formula of success for a fruitful life?

1. Hear & Accept: seek God, hunger for His word and His will in your life
2. Be Rooted & Nurtured: commit to Sunday worship, relationships, God's Word
3. Garden & Protect: pull weeds, guard against worldly thinking, maintain priorities

Memory Verse:

Mark 4:24-25 Consider carefully what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

James 1:21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Life Group Discussion:

1. Discuss the importance of our memory verse:
Mark 4:24-25 Consider carefully what you hear. With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.
2. What type of soil do you identify the most with? (path, rocky, thorns, good)
3. Discuss being rooted in God's Love, the Body of Christ and God's Word. Why are these so important to our growth and vitality in the Faith? How can we become more rooted?
4. What are some of the thorns that have tried to choke you out? Are there any current thorns that are coming against you creating worry, or distracting you or pulling your attention away?
5. We need to garden our hearts every day. Is there any pain you need to process, any thought you need to change, any attitude you need to alter, any hurt you need to release? Take a few minutes to pray for each other.