

3.4.C(16).Sowing Word + 4 Faith Responses. Mark 4:1-20

Verse.

¹⁴ The sower **sows the word**. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, **Satan** immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on **rocky** ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they **have no root** in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are the ones

sown among **thorns**. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the **cares of the world** and the deceitfulness of **riches** and the **desires** for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the **good soil** are the ones who hear the word and **accept it and bear fruit**, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” Mark 4:14-20.

Background:

As a disciple of Jesus Mashiach entering the “childhood” of your maturation, you are taking a significant step from a “personal” to a “public” experience of the Kingdom of God. Remember, the growth and strengths you have acquired as a “reborn” then “infant” disciple should never be

abandoned. Always walk in repentance and faith to receive the New Life of Jesus Mashiach daily. Always walk in fellowship with the Lord, drawing near in daily devotion to present yourself to him. A newborn, having progressed from milk to solid food, does not stop eating! Or, an infant who learns to walk does not stop walking but eventually also gets faster, goes further, and puts this motion to practical use!

But, as you progress to this third stage of your discipleship, a “childhood” for you, consider this a time to discover with other disciples as you enjoy your freedom together! Try out the works of the Kingdom! Experience your “firsts”—the first time gathering “sinners” to meet Jesus, the first time “planting” the Word, and the first time leading a “new disciple” into life! In short, enjoy your childhood! In the Kingdom, be “freed” (Galatians 5:13, 16) to *play*—to test, to discover, to have fun

as the Lord watches and cultivates your time to bear fruit!

Remember, as a child, always expect the Lord to be showing you and equipping you for this new phase of sharing the Kingdom together!

Remember what the Lord says to you:

¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the **secret** of the **kingdom of God**, but for those outside everything is in parables... Mark 4:11

The Lord gives you the “secret” of the Kingdom because this is your “birthright” (Matthew 5:3). If you want the Kingdom, humbly receive all Jesus has for you, and it is fully yours!

I have seen some who have seen personally the power, the fruit, the multiplication of the Kingdom because they expected it. When Jesus

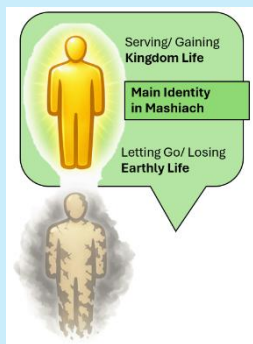
offered them the “secret,” they were eager to hear! So, take hold of the secret.

As you read the parable of the Sower, of the Farmer, and of the Field, *hear* with ears ready to act on what you hear. These are proven ways to bring the Kingdom to see it multiply and to bear life-changing fruit.

Case Study: Hungry for the

Kingdom.

I will tell the story of N. again, but there are no better examples of people who have received the fullness of the Kingdom that I have seen. N. came to the kingdom as a man whose life was over. Following a divorce and a mental health breakdown, N. had nothing but the Word of God, which he devoured hungrily. He had gone to a church whose people were mainly grounded in the world, but then he heard the Gospel of New Life, and he new his *life* was no in Jesus Mashiach with his treasure and soul



now joined with Mashiach in heaven. So, he ravenously absorbed all the Kingdom Life offered to him.

N. walked by faith as a responsible farmer, cultivating all that the Lord gave him. He led his mother, then his sister to the Lord. He served with then married his best friend, and he was led to a new church where he became a key leader. The Lord blessed him with a son in his likeness, the joy of his heart. Everywhere N. has gone, the Lord has filled his world and people with blessing. He has made an impact for the Kingdom.

So, listen to what the Lord will teach you know. This is how the Lord grows his Kingdom in this world, in the lives of people from any background: enslaved, hardened, misguided, or ready—and this is how you can minister to any condition of life to introduce them to the King's New Life!

Focus:

A. Word Sown: New Life of the Kingdom 4.10-14

1. Captive Souls: Need Healing to be freed from Oppression 4:15.

2. Hard or Broken Hearts: Need healing to receive Word deeply. 4:16-17.

3. Cluttered-Misguided Mind: Needs Strange Growth cleared away.4:18-19

4. Receptive Life: Needs nourishment to bear abundant fruit 4:20

Consider:

A. **Word Sown:** New Life of the Kingdom 4.10-14

The first secret the Lord Jesus Mashiach reveals to you is how to plant the Word and cultivate Faith in any possible life. Jesus tells the parable of the “Sower,” because you are really planting “new life” like a Seed whenever you bring the Word of

God to the “outsiders” in the world. So, as new life grows like a seed, you will need to learn to cultivate, to prepare the soil, and to harvest when the time is ready.

Note: The Kingdom of God has only one seed, for only the Word of God has the power of God, being “inspired—breathed in” with the Life of God (2 Timothy 3:16) to bring spiritual life (1 Peter 1:23). Be sure to “plant” the Word in whatever form your listeners will accept it. Summarize it. State key words. Quote whole or parts of passages. Introduce and personalize by saying, “This is what Jesus said” or “God said in his Word.”

For, many in the Church Age mistakenly thought that the “ideas” of scripture would suffice. While you can and should explain, paraphrase, or incorporate the Word of God in language that is understandable, you *must* be sure

to plant the Word itself as part of your message. So, learn the lesson of the parable of the Sower.

1. Captive Souls: Need Healing to be freed from Oppression 4:15.

First, we see people whose lives resemble hardened “paths” that have so beaten down and trampled, that there is not even an ability to receive the Word. Thus, this *captive soul* is powerless and Satan easily removes any trace or memory of the Word from their lives (14).

I don't think it is an accident that the first thing Jesus Mashiach revealed to his disciples was his authority to forgive sins and his power to cast out demons and to heal as the Son of Man (Mark 2:10). For, we saw that Satan uses all things entrapments to keep the souls of people crushed and powerless: *debilitating disease, addictive sin and guilt, spiritual oppression, and even religious regulations and traditions.*

2. Hard or Broken Hearts: Need healing to receive Word deeply. 4:16-17. Illustrated by the “rocky ground,” Jesus teaches that there are some lives with hardened, impenetrable areas of life which resist and work against faith. Often, the “hard” and rocky obstructions are hidden and buried in the deep places of life, in a person’s heart.

Because these *hard* places resist the Word, they leave little room for faith to grow so that it has no “roots” (17). In Isaiah 61:1, we are told that Mashiach specifically “binds up” broken hearts by removing the sources of hardness that break the heart.

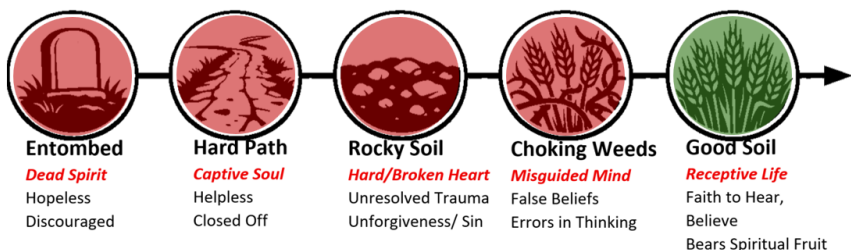
3. Cluttered-Misguided Mind: Needs Strange Growth cleared away. 4:18-19.

Some people are likened to “thorny” soil. For these, the faith that begins to grow is slowly “choked” by a competing growth, errant “cares of the world, deceitful riches, and the desires for other things” (19). In this way, the *cluttered mind*

focuses and holds to competing beliefs or powers that grow alongside faith, eventually choking off and subverting faith in a disciple. Often, errant ideas or teachings which are enticed by the flesh with offers of “riches,” “objects of desire,” or “personal cares” will throttle growth.

4. Receptive Life: Needs nourishment to bear abundant fruit 4:20

Finally, Good Soil represents the person who “accepts” the Word, and, with persistence, bears good fruit (20).

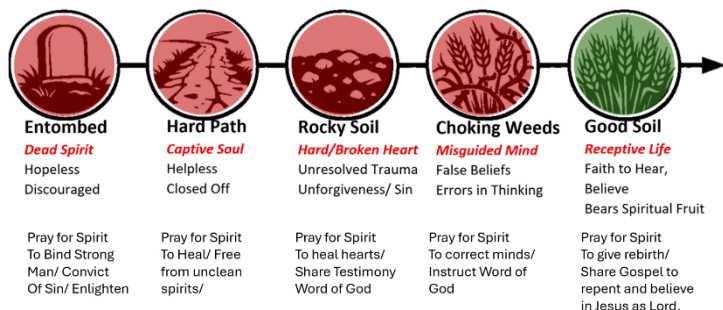


Notice that these conditions of life develop sequentially as well. The disciple who plants may consider a person moving from the most helpless states to a readiness for the Kingdom.

Question:

Further Discovery:

Sharing the Gospel:



Kingdom Ministry:

Kingdom Ministry by the Holy Spirit

