

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## INTRO

- We are commanded to bear fruit!
  - *“Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”* **Mat 3:8**
  - *“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”* **Jhn 15:8**
  - *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”* **Jhn 15:16**
  - *“...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...”* **Col 1:10**

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## INTRO

- The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:1-20**

*1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered round 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. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 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. 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. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 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.'*

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## INTRO

- The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:1-20**

*9 Then Jesus said, 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.'*

*10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, 'The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that,*

*“they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,  
and ever hearing but never understanding;  
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”*

*13 Then Jesus said to them, 'Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?'*

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## INTRO

- The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:1-20**

*14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 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. 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. 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.'*

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## INTRO

- The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:1-20**
- Significant Parable:
  - Found in 3 gospels: **Mat 13, Mrk 4, Luk 8**
  - *“The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you...”* **Mk 4:11**
  - *“If you don’t understand this one, how can you understand any of them?”*  
**Mk 4:13**

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## INTRO

- The Parable of the Sower - **Mark 4:1-20**
- There are only 4 kinds of ground:
  - Ground 1 - The **Path** (v4) - Satan snatches away. (v15)
  - Ground 2 - The **Rocks** (v5) - No roots. When trouble or persecution comes, fall away. (v16-17)
  - Ground 3 - The **Thorns** (v7) - Worries of this life, deceitfulness of wealth, desire for other things choke the word making it unfruitful. (v18-19)
  - Ground 4 - The **Good Soil** (v8) - Hear, accept, and produce 30x, 60x, 100x harvest. (v20)

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## 1. WE WILL ONLY MEET FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE HARVEST:

- Ground 1 - The Path

- Share the gospel - not interested.
- **\*\*\* Move on \*\*\***

- Ground 2 - The Rocky Soil

- Share the gospel - immediate growth.
- Face trouble & persecution and turn back.
- **\*\*\* Can we help/ support you? If not, move on \*\*\***

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## 1. WE WILL ONLY MEET FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE HARVEST:

- Ground 3 - The Thorny Soil
  - Share the gospel - immediate growth.
  - Distracted by life, wealth, other things.
  - **\*\*\* Help them question their priorities from scripture. If not responding, move on \*\*\***
  
- Ground 4 - The Good Soil
  - Share the gospel - immediate growth.
  - Bears fruit 30x, 60x, 100x what was sown.
  - **\*\*\* Pour everything you have into nurturing & discipling them. \*\*\***



# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## 2. WHICH GROUND ARE YOU?:

- Are you Ground 1 - The Path?
  - You can feel yourself 'applying the brakes' when the challenge to obey comes.
  - **\*\*\* Decide what step of obedience you can take today. \*\*\***
  
- Are you Ground 2 - The Rocky Soil?
  - You shrink back & compromise when trouble & persecution comes.
  - First 12 disciples nearly all martyred for obeying Jesus!
  - **\*\*\* Choose to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus - no matter the cost. \*\*\***

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## 2. WHICH GROUND ARE YOU?:

- Are you Ground 3 - The Thorny Soil?
  - Your focus is on life, work, other distractions.
  - Parable of Banquet (Lk 14:16-24)
  - **\*\*\* Examine your priorities & your schedule (same thing), chop out the distractions, obey Jesus. \*\*\***

# THE FOUR GROUNDS - MARK 4:1-20

## 2. WHICH GROUND ARE YOU?:

- *Become Ground 4 - The Good Soil*
  - You are hungry for Jesus, you have overcome persecution, you are pursuing the Kingdom.
  - Overcoming Ground 1-3 with Hebrews 12:1-3...
    - ***(Gr1) Fix your eyes on Jesus,***
    - ***(Gr2) endure opposition from sinners & don't grow weary or lose heart,***
    - ***(Gr3) throw off everything that hinders & sin that entangles,***
    - ***(Gr4) run with perseverance the race marked out for us.***

**WHAT'S YOUR NEXT STEP??**

# THE FOUR GROUNDS SUMMARY - MARK 4:1-20

## INTRO

- Be Fruitful! (Psm 1:1-6, Jer 17:7-8), Mat 3:8, Jhn 15:8, 15:16, Col 1:10 etc. etc.
- The Secrets of the Kingdom, Mrk 4:11, 4:13

## 1. WE WILL ONLY MEET FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE HARVEST:

| <b>GR1 - PATH</b>     | <b>GR2 - ROCKY</b>           | <b>GR3 - THORNS</b>         | <b>GR4 - GOOD SOIL</b>        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Not interested</i> | <i>Turn Back @ Hardships</i> | <i>Distracted by Life</i>   | <i>Produce 30x, 60x, 100x</i> |
| <i>Move on</i>        | <i>Support? / Move On</i>    | <i>Challenge? / Move on</i> | <i>Invest Time</i>            |

## 2. WHICH GROUND ARE YOU?

| <b>GR1 - PATH</b>               | <b>GR2 - ROCKY</b>                                 | <b>GR3 - THORNS</b>                      | <b>GR4 - GOOD SOIL</b>                           |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>Take a step of obedience</i> | <i>Deny self, take up your cross, follow Jesus</i> | <i>Throw off everything that hinders</i> | <i>Run with perseverance the race marked out</i> |

**YOUR NEXT STEP?**