

Mark 4:1-9, 13-20

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

³ “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

⁹ And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”

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.”

Series: God's Story: Finding our Place in His Unfolding Plan

Sep 17, 2017: Jesus's Illustration: The Seed & Soil

Creation Calls

*How have God's people in the Bible benefited from time in nature?
Do you relate to their experience or the words in Psalm 8?*

*How does God communicate with us through creation? (Psalm 19;
Romans 1:20; Matthew 6:28-30)*

Can you name any personal examples?

Do you learn more through words or illustrations?

How do they work together? How does God offer both?

What a Seed Needs

Mark 1:14-17 – Last week, we saw a summary of Jesus's message – the Kingdom is near; repent, believe, follow – and become fishers.

Mark 4:3-8 – This week, Jesus offers an illustration – what three conditions does a seed require, in order to grow and multiply?

A Receptive Heart

Mark 1:14-17 – Last week, did you relate to any of the steps that Jesus calls us to take – repent, believe, and follow?

Mark 4:14-20 – This week, does Jesus's illustration clarify His message? Do you relate more with the path, the rocky, or thorns?

A Fruitful Life

Mark 1:17 – Last week, Jesus said that if we respond to His gospel message, He will make us become fishers of men. It was not a command; it was the effect of repentance, faith, and following.

Mark 4:20 – This week, how does fruitful multiplication occur? What is our responsibility, and God's?

Mark 4:26-29; 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 – In God's kingdom, how can people participate in multiplication, and what is God's role?