

Mark

The Gospel of the Servant of God

I. The *Service* of the Servant (1:1-10:52)

- A. *His Preparation* for Ministry (1:1-20)
- B. *His Powerful Ministry* (1:21-2:12)
- C. *His Pointed Defense of His Ministry* (2:13-3:6)
- D. *His Progressing Ministry* (3:7-35)

E. *His Practice* of Teaching in Parables (4:1-34)

1. The *Parable* of the Sower (4:1-20)

a. *Introduction* of the Parable (4:1-12)

4 He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

² And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

³ “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow;

⁴ as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵ Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.

⁶ And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

⁷ Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

⁸ Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

⁹ And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰ As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables.

¹¹ And **He** was saying to them,
“To **you** has been given the **mystery** of the **kingdom of God**,
but those who are **outside** get everything **in parables**,

¹² so that WHILE **SEEING**, THEY MAY **SEE** AND **NOT PERCEIVE**,
AND WHILE **HEARING**, THEY MAY **HEAR** AND **NOT UNDERSTAND**,
OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT **RETURN** AND **BE FORGIVEN**.”

b. *Interpretation* of the **Parable** (4:13-20)

¹³ And **He** said to them, “Do you **not understand** this **parable**?
How will you **understand** **all** the **parables**?

¹⁴ The **sower** sows **the word**.

¹⁵ **These** are the **ones** who are **beside** the **road** where the **word** is **sown**;
and when they **hear**, **immediately Satan comes** and **takes away** the **word**
which has been **sown in them**.

¹⁶ In a similar way **these** are the **ones** on whom **seed** was **sown**
on the **rocky places**, who, when they **hear the word**,
immediately receive it with **joy**;

¹⁷ and they have **no firm root** in themselves, but are **only temporary**;
then, when **affliction** or **persecution** arises because of the **word**,
immediately they fall away.

¹⁸ And **others** are the **ones** on whom **seed** was **sown** among the **thorns**;
these are the **ones** who have **heard the word**,

¹⁹ but the **worries** of the **world**, and the **deceitfulness** of **riches**,
and the **desires** for **other things** enter in and **choke the word**,
and it becomes **unfruitful**.

²⁰ And **those** are the ones on whom **seed** was **sown** on the **good soil**;
and they **hear the word** and **accept it** and **bear fruit**, **thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold**.”

Summary/Application—The *Parable* of the **Sower**

The “**Seed**” of **God’s Word** is being *Sown* throughout the **World**.
The various “**Soils**” are the **hearts of men** that **hear** and **respond**
to the “**Seed**” of **God’s Word** being *Sown* upon them.

To which “**Soil**” can **you** be **likened** to?

- A. **Are you** like the **seed** that fell on **hardened highways** which the **birds** came and **ate up**? These are **likened** to **those** who **hear** the **word of God**, but have it **immediately snatched** from their **hearts** by **Satan**? (4:4, 15)

- B. **Are you** like the *seed* that fell on rocky ground that *immediately* **sprang up** because there was **no depth** of **soil**? As a result, after the sun came up and **scorched** the plant, it **withered away** since it had **no root**. These are **likened** to those that **hear the word of God** with **joy**. However, because they have **no firm roots**, they immediately “**fall away**” when **affliction** and **persecution** arise because of the **word**. (4:5-6, 16-17)
- C. **Are you** like the *seed* that fell among thorns. When the thorns came up they **choked** the **plant**, and it yielded **no crop**? These are **likened** to those who **hear the word of God**, but the **worries** of the **world**, and the **deceitfulness of riches**, and the **lusts** for other **things** enter in and **choke** the **word**, making them **unfruitful**. (4:7, 18-19)
- D. **Are you** like the *seed* that fell into good soil, who **grew** and **increased** and became **fruitful**. These are **they** who **hear the word** and **accept it**, and **bear fruit thirty, sixty, and hundredfold**. (4:8, 20)

Personal Application

As **Believers**, we are **called** to be
Sowers of the “**Seed**” of the **Word of God**,
 and **Bear Fruit** for **God**

A. *Sowing* God’s Word of Salvation

For **I (Paul)** am **not ashamed** of the **gospel**,
 for it is the **power of God** for **salvation** to **everyone** who **believes**,
 to the **Jew first** and also to the **Greek**. (Romans 1:16)

Now **I make known** to you, brethren, the **gospel** which **I preached** to you,
 which also you **received**, in which also you **stand**,
 by which also you are **saved**,
 if you **hold fast the word** which **I preached** to you,
 unless you **believed in vain**. (I Corinthians 15:1-2)

B. *Sowing* God’s Word of Eternal Life

Simon Peter answered **Him (Jesus)**, “**Lord**, to **whom** shall **we go**?
You have words of **eternal life**. (John 6:68)

...prove yourselves to be **blameless** and **innocent, children of God**
 above reproach in the **midst** of a **crooked** and **perverse** generation,
 among whom **you appear** as **lights** in the **world**,
holding fast the **word of life**, (Philippians 2:15b-16a)

C. *Sowing* God’s Word of Truth

In **Him (Messiah)**, you also, after **listening** to the **message of truth**,
 the **gospel** of your **salvation**—having also **believed**,

you were **sealed in Him** with the **Holy Spirit** of **promise**, (Ephesians 1:13)

Be **diligent** to present yourself **approved to God** as a **workman**
who does **not need** to be ashamed,
accurately handling the **word of truth**. (II Timothy 2:15)

D. *Sowing* God's Words of Spiritual "Nourishment" and Growth

...you have been **born again** not of seed which is *perishable* but *imperishable*,
that is, through the **living** and **enduring word of God**.

like **newborn babies**, long for the **pure milk** of the word,
so that **by it** you may grow in respect to salvation. (I Peter 1:23, 2:2)

E. *Sowing* God's Word of Righteousness

All Scripture is *inspired by God* and profitable
for *teaching*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *training in righteousness*;

so that the **man of God** may be **adequate**,
equipped for every good work. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

F. *Sowing* God's Word of Reconciliation

...**God** was *in Messiah* reconciling the **world** to **Himself**,..
and **He** has **committed to us** the **word of reconciliation**.

Therefore, **we** are *ambassadors* for **Messiah**,
as though **God** were making an *appeal through us*;
we beg you on behalf of **Messiah**, be reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5:19-20)

G. *Sowing* God's Word of Hope

Blessed be the **God and Father** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
who according to **His great mercy** has caused us to be *born again*
to a **living hope** through the resurrection of **Jesus the Messiah** from the **dead**,..

...but **sanctify Messiah as Lord** in your hearts, always *being ready*
to make a **defense** to everyone who **asks you** to give an **account**
for the hope that is **in you**, yet with **gentleness** and **reverence**; (I Peter 1:3, 3:15)

Closing Challenge