

“WHO IS LISTENING?” Part 2

MARK 4:13-23; SUPPORT SCRIPTURE

II. OUR LORD EXPLAINS THE PARABLE IN PLAIN TERMS

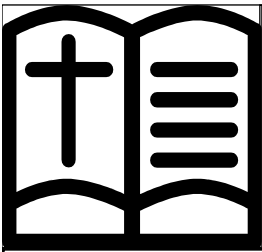
A. He tests how much revelation the disciples have been willing and therefore enabled to receive

v. 13 What kind of soil are they?

1. It is easy to get trapped in our own preconceived notions; we do not like to think “outside the box” they create; comfort zone
2. It is difficult, if unaided by the Spirit of God, to grasp divine revelation due to the trap of preconceived ideas and our bent away from Him 1 Cor 2:14; Rom 8:5-8
3. He is not working independently of the members of the trinity counting on His reasonable presentation to be convincing of truth; Kingdom truth is a team work objective

B. Explaining the “characters” of the parable vv. 14-20

1. The sower is someone actively presenting the Word of God
2. Those beside the road are those not willing to receive the Word and Satan takes it away quickly; not doubters, but deniers
3. The rocky-soiled folks are those who, when hearing the word, see it as an innovative, fresh idea and grasp it; but due to no commitment to its implications, do not follow it (next page)



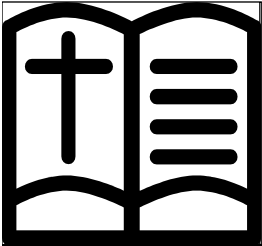
and it dies with them because they cannot resolve it with their troubles or reputation; on to the next faddish idea!

- 4. Those who liked the Word and took it in while among the thorns, are those who cannot get past their own desires and lust to have things here; they cannot see beyond this current world system long enough to envision the kingdom of God; they let the word die for lack of attention*
- 5. The good-ground folk are the ones who take in the Word and let it do its work in spite of the challenges presented in this current world; they stick it out to bear fruit; they have yielded to the “plow of life” to break them into ground that can receive the gift of the Word*

OBSERVATIONS: *It is the Seed that has the power of life; the soils are the medium in which it is planted. 2) The ground BEARS the fruit of the Seed, the ground does not PRODUCE the fruit, it is the end process of the Seed. 3) Fruit is produced by the Seed in ground that lets the Seed abide in it; it is an ongoing action and it is to be seen as such. 4) Only the good soil can be commended for allowing the Seed to finish its product. 5) Only “soils” that allow the Seed to stay until it finishes its work will bear fruit.*

C. Jesus is the Light brought into the world to give it the understanding the darkness has hidden. 3 of the soils are attempting to hide Him v. 21-22

D. WHO IS LISTENING? V 23



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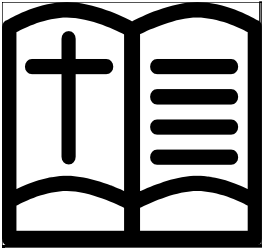
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