

**Jesus' Parable of the Sower, the Seed, and the Soils**  
**Scripture: Mark 4:1-20**

Our passage today is one of the most profound teachings of Jesus, given at the very beginning of His ministry, recorded also in Matthew and Luke. Since it has a ring of familiarity, we can easily pass over it without giving this parable the attention it deserves. While there are many lessons in Jesus' teaching, the central one is the sobering responsibility each one of us has to listen carefully each time God's Word is taught, even as Jesus said: *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* (Mark 4:9)

While there are a number of lessons in Jesus' parable, the application issue I want to place before us this morning is that even if we are in the 4<sup>th</sup> group, and giving evidence of spiritual fruit, the whole of our Christian lives is meant to be one of continual and progressive response to the truth we are hearing and learning. So as we look at these four different types of soil, I want us to evaluate our hearing quotient - how responsive we are to the truth God is seeking to teach us?

The \_\_\_\_\_ heart (vs. 4, 15)

The \_\_\_\_\_ heart (vs. 5, 6, 16, 17)

The \_\_\_\_\_ heart (vs. 7, 18, 19)

The \_\_\_\_\_ heart (vs. 8, 20)