



Mark: A Journey with Jesus || Mark 4:1-20 || Seed, Soil and How our Heart Grows

Mark has shown us the deeds and personal interaction of Jesus, because these show us how to live. Jesus also wants his words and teaching to show us what a life surrendered to him should look like.

- *As a group, talk together about what a “surrendered life to Jesus” should look like, and what a surrendered life most definitely does NOT look like.*

This week’s text is broken into two distinct parts, the parable and the explanation of the parable. First, read Mark 4:1-9 as a group. Leader Note: Do not jump ahead to verse 10-20, we will get to them in a moment.

- *Why do you think these verses might have been confusing to those who were listening?*
- *What is the significance and meaning of Mark 4:9? Why does Jesus end his parable in this way?*

Now read Mark 4:10-20 as a group, looking closer at Jesus’ explanation of why he speaks in parables and what this specific parable meant.

- *Why do you think Jesus only shared the meaning of the parable with his disciples?*
- *Using your notes from this weekend message, or your reading of this text, as a group break down together what the four types of hearts (soil) that Jesus is describing here.*

The seed that falls amongst the thorns is the word of God that is drowned out by the distractions of this world. This could be described as the **over-cluttered heart; a heart that may avoid outright destruction but instead falls victim to death by distraction.**

- *Why is this specific heart so dangerous to God’s word in our lives?*
- *Which of the four heart descriptors we heard this Sunday would best describe where your heart is today?*

We have to pay attention to our heart, being careful what we put around it on a daily basis. The only way we can truly see our hearts changed is to “show up” with God, putting ourselves in the place to be surrounded with his words of authority.

- *What is one thing you can specifically do this week that will allow you to show up?*

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