

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Words, Works + Ways - Part 4

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Introduction

The words, works and ways of Jesus have a multiplying effect. What we learn and hear from God is never meant to stop with us. In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus teaches His disciples that good soil produces a huge harvest – thirty, sixty or a hundred times what was sown. As His disciples, we need to understand the importance of not only hearing and accepting the word of God, but also producing a harvest through the word of God.

Bible Passage

Mark 4:1-20

Discussion

1. What is your understanding of this parable? Who is the farmer, what is the seed, and what represents the different types of soil?
2. Read Mark 4:15 and Matthew 13:19. What kind of distractions are in your life this week that could hinder you from understanding the word of God? Why?
3. Read Mark 4:16-17. "Trouble or persecution... because of the word" is an issue of vulnerability. How can you overcome this? What are some things that help you to not only receive the word of God, but also to grow and have deep roots?
4. Read Mark 4:18. When the word of God fell among thorns, the word is crowded out. Have you experienced a time when things in your life overcrowded your spiritual walk? How did that impact your relationship with Jesus?

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5. Read Mark 4:20. What is your understanding of a 'huge harvest'? How can we as disciples be a part of seeing this produced? What could personally challenge you in producing a huge harvest? Discuss.
6. Knowing the importance of producing a harvest as well as the challenges involved in striving for it, do you actually want to be good soil? Share with your Life Group so that you can hold each other accountable.

Respond

The word of God brings out the best version of us, but we are called to more than that. The Parable of the Sower teaches us as believers that we can only be the "good soil" if we produce a harvest – if the word of God is moving through us to reach others. Who is one person in your mind right now that you can ask, "I am looking for someone to read the Bible with. I don't know whether you'd be interested?" Share with your Life Group and pray for those names this week.

Reading Plan:

Part 4 – Read and reread Mark 4