

**Seed Planters**  
**Let's Go**  
**Mark 4:1-25**  
**5-2-21**

*James 1:21 – “Therefore... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

*1 Peter 1:23 – “...you have been born again... through the living and abiding word of God.”*

*Hebrews 4:12 – “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

*Jeremiah 23:29 – “‘Is not my Word like fire,’ declares the LORD, ‘and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?’”*

## **I. The Power of the Seed**

*Mark 4:2-3 – “And He was teaching them many things in parables, and in His teaching He said to them: ‘Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.’”*

1. Sower
2. Went out
3. Sowing

*Ecclesiastes 11:6 – “In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hand rest, because you don't know which will succeed...”*

*2 Corinthians 9:6 – “...whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

*1 Corinthians 3:6 – “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”*

## **II. The Heart Governs the Ears**

*Mark 4:9 – “And He said, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’”*

1. Hardened

*Mark 4:15 – “And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.”*

*Ephesians 2:3 (NLT) – “All of us used to...follow the passionate desires...of our sinful nature...”*

*“Is transformation possible for human beings?” – Robert Coles (Harvard Child Psychiatrist)*

*Romans 1:18 – “...in unrighteousness we suppress the truth.”*

*Matthew 9:36 – “Jesus saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*

### **Pray in Faith**

*Ezekiel 11:19 - “God, take out their...heart of stone and give him/her a new heart of life”*

## **2. Shallow**

*Mark 4:16-17 – “And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.”*

### **Pray in Faith**

*Philippians 1:29 – “...it has been granted to you for the sake of Christ...to believe in Him...and also suffer for His sake.”*

## **3. Distracted**

*Mark 4:18-19 – “And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”*

### **Pray in Faith**

*1 John 2:15 – “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

## **4. Receptive**

*Mark 4:20 – “But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”*

## **Pray in Faith**

*Luke 11:28 – “Jesus said, ‘But even more blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice.’”*

*John 12:23-24 – “Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified... unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seed.’”*

## **Going Deeper This Week**

1. Read Mark 4:1-25. Pray before you discuss.
2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit inspired the biblical writers to refer frequently to body parts in their analogies?
3. When have you found telling stories (parables) to be an effective way to communicate? What made them effective?
4. Why do some people call this the parable of the sower and some call it the parable of the soils? Which do you prefer, and why?
5. Was it unfair of Jesus to obscure His teaching from those who rejected Him by using parables? Whose fault was it ultimately that they did not understand?
6. Is one kind of soil prevalent in our culture? Is there a particular way we should present the Word of God that might make people more receptive? How can we change the presentation without changing the message?
7. How is Satan also partially responsible for the failure of the three kinds of unfruitful soil?
8. What part do we play in being good soil for God’s Word? What can we do to grow in producing fruit by making disciples?