

Dig Deeper into Mark 4:1-20 for personal study and Life Groups...



Don't let the division discourage you!

1 path
Not for me!

2 rocky soil
Initial interest

3 thorny soil
Worries, money

4 good soil
Hear, accept, produce

A Surprise: parables divide (v9-12)

1) be receptive in your listening (v11)

2) be realistic in your sowing (v14-20)

CHRIST CHURCH HUNTINGDON

Photos from lumoproject.com, Pinocchio dollar from <https://vincent-the-artist.zibbet.com>

Here are some questions to think more deeply about the passage from the sermon for yourself or in small groups this week...

1. Where do you see rejection so far in Mark's gospel? How does this set the scene for the parable of the sower?
2. Remind yourself of the four kinds of soil (v1-8) and what they stand for (14-20). How have you seen people respond to the message about Jesus in the different ways symbolised by the four soils? Try to be specific.
3. How are you normally affected when other people reject something you are considering? How does this passage help you to react independently and carefully?
4. Has your understanding of "parable" been changed by this passage? Do you agree with the analogy that they are like a 'sieve', or can you think of a better analogy?
5. How does viewing "perception"/"understanding" (v12) as a "gift" (v11) change the way you approach a) bible reading, and b) outreach? (Do Isaiah 66:2 and 2 Cor 4:4-6 help respectively?)

Resources

- <https://stebbes.org/sermons/> Talk on the Sower by Vaughan Roberts.
- <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/mark/> for some excellent short videos about Mark.
- <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/55170/audio/> See Dick Lucas' excellent 15 min talks on Mark's gospel "From my study to yours".