

**Series: Mark (Jesus - the Son of God)**

**Sermon: Capable of Hearing God?**

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**Bible Verses: Mark 4:1-20**

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Jesus says "he who has ears to hear, let him hear" because he had something \_\_\_\_\_ to say that many people \_\_\_\_\_!

Rebellion is \_\_\_\_\_ of hearing God's words but not really paying attention.

**The main question:** In the parable of seeds, I need to ask whether I'm really \_\_\_\_\_, and recognize that God's judgment falls on those who \_\_\_\_\_ the truth (for whatever reason). I need to think about the type of soil I am.

1. Missing the soil: some people have God's word "stolen" from them or are "negligent" with it and aren't allowing themselves even to have \_\_\_\_\_ at knowing God better.

**Practical:** If this is me, I must give \_\_\_\_\_ a chance. I should genuinely pay attention, \_\_\_\_\_ towards God, and stop scoffing or stop skipping what God is trying to do.

2. Rocky soil or shallow soil: some people are very glad to hear the word of God but \_\_\_\_\_ during \_\_\_\_\_ and don't last long because their roots aren't deep.

**Practical:** If I'm living in shallow soil I \_\_\_\_\_ deeper roots and spiritual disciplines. I could read the book, "Celebration of Discipline" by Richard Foster but I must develop habits like prayer, fasting, tithing, confession, and study.

3. Thorny soil: some people heard God's words but eventually things in life choke out any spiritual life and \_\_\_\_\_.

Things that choke out spiritual life:

- \_\_\_\_\_ of this life
- deceitfulness of \_\_\_\_\_.
- desire for "\_\_\_\_\_ things" besides God.

**Practical:** I don't want to live in thorny soil, I must \_\_\_\_\_ where I desire God and don't have much lust for anything else. I must know that all my \_\_\_\_\_ have the potential to choke out the word of God at work in me.

4. Good soil: some people hear and accept God's word, and \_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual fruit!

Putting yourself in good soil is about putting yourself in a place that encourages Spiritual learning and growth, and having a willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ what God is teaching you.

The fruit Jesus is speaking of is helping people \_\_\_\_\_.

The fruit is also personal \_\_\_\_\_ change.

Think about the problems Jesus described and ask yourself: what changes would it take for me to have "good soil"?