



A Revolutionary Symbol

Jeremy Peters ~ March 5, 2017

Mark 4:3-9 NIV

"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

SEED

Mark 4:14 NIV

*The farmer sows the **word**.*

The seed represents the _____ of God (referring to both Jesus and the Bible). (cf. John 1:1, 14; 2 Timothy 3:16)

The word of God is likened to a seed, because its _____ is its power.

Within a single seed, there exists the _____ and _____ to radically impact the whole world.

SOIL

Four Kinds of Soil:

1. _____ Soil

Mark 4:15 NIV

*Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. **As soon as they hear it**, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.*

One common characteristic of hard ground is a _____ to do what we already know to do.

2. _____ Soil

Mark 4:16-17 NIV

*Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and **at once receive it with joy**. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.*

One common characteristic of rocky ground is _____ engagement.

3. _____ Soil

Mark 4:18-19 NIV

*Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; **but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things** come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.*

One common characteristic of crowded soil is _____.

4. _____ Soil

Mark 4:20 NIV

*Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, **accept** it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.*

The primary characteristic of good soil is the ability to bear _____ far greater than what was sown.

FRUIT

The real issue is not how hard, rocky and crowded soils are _____; the real issue is how they are _____. And the common characteristic of all three is that none of them bear any fruit.

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

A Revolutionary Symbol

Small Group Questions

1. What from this passage and Sunday's teaching stood out to you?
2.
 - a. On Sunday, Jeremy suggested that the physical building where the Church meets, is to serve like a 'greenhouse,' providing an environment that is conducive for bearing fruit. Take some time to share moments or stories where something significant in your spiritual journey happened while you were in the building itself (ie. A conversation, a sermon, a serving opportunity, a course, etc.).
 - b. What excites you most about how a redeveloped facility will be able to help us provide an environment even more conducive to spiritual growth – personally and for the City and community around us?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose the image of a 'seed' (as opposed to something like a hammer or fire)? If the Word of God is likened to a seed in that its weakness is its power, how might the potential transforming power of the Word of God be released or rendered ineffective? Do you truly believe the Word has the kind of power to radically transform the entire world? Share with each other your personal 'plan' to expose yourself to the Seed so that it might bear much fruit in your life.
4. While we all want to cultivate good soil, which of the three 'fruitless' soils do you most need to be wary of in your own life? What factors contribute to the soil of your heart becoming hard, rocky or crowded? What might cultivation of good soil look like in your life personally in this season? What might Jesus be asking you to do or how might you arrange your life differently to aide in this?
5. Take time to listen in prayer. Ask Jesus the following question: *"Jesus, how do you see the condition of the soil of my heart right now? How can I partner with you in that process of cultivating good soil?"*
6. Take some time to pray the 'Seed Prayer' for the day as a group (ie. The StAAC App notification for the day).