

## **Recap of 5/28/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 4:1-20):**

**1.** *The context of Mark 4:1-20 and the key to understanding its interpretation is the opposition to and rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders. This passage (called the parable of the four soils) is talking about the fruitfulness of the seed, the Word of God (Luke 8:11), not the fruitfulness of the people, the soils (Luke 4:8,19). It is about the acceptance or rejection of the gospel. It answers the question: "Why are there so many who are not only not interested in faith but are openly antagonistic to it?" It is meant as an encouragement to the Disciples and to us today to not give up, continue to sow the seed. Many will not respond because of hard-hearts, adversities, persecutions, worry, wealth and cares. But some will respond.*

*- "It may seem that much of our effort achieves no result; it may seem that much of our labor is wasted. That is how the disciples were feeling, when they saw Jesus banished from the synagogue and regarded with suspicion. In many places His message seemed to have failed, and they were discouraged and downhearted. But this parable said to them and says to us. "Patience! Do your work. Sow the seed. Leave the rest to God. The harvest is sure." (Barclay)*

**2.** *The four soils are: the hardened soil the rocky soil; the thorny soil; and the good soil; with responses of hard-hearted indifference; shallow acceptance; pre-occupied with the cares and riches of this life which choke out the Word; and "those who hear the Word and accept it and bear spiritual fruit. These are genuine disciples." (Grassmick)*

**3.** *A parable is the illustration of truth in the spiritual realm by a story in the earthly or natural realm. Makes a comparison between a known truth and an unknown truth. More than an illustration—it captured attention of the people and forced them to think—gets them deeply involved and compels listeners to make a decision about God's truth. Meant to surprise and stir the conscience. "(Grassmick)*

**4.** *this is a great principle [1 Corinthians 2:13-14] that Paul put down, and it is still applicable today. We can use every means to try to get people to understand spiritual truth, but they must want to understand them before these things can be made real to them." (McGee)*