



Mark: Following Jesus Immediately- Kingdom Roots

Introduction: One of the obstacles to spiritual growth is often having a heart that is prepared for what God wants to say to us. Even though Jesus is a great teacher, often what he taught never took root in his hearers. What if we prepared our hearts the way a farmer prepares the ground?

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had a teacher that inspired you to dig deeper into their subject matter? Did everyone feel this way about that teacher or were there some who connected more?
2. Read **Mark 4:1-9** Jesus begins with the word “listen,” and ends with the phrase: “whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” How are those two things connected? Does the responsibility to “get it” rest with the teacher or the hearer?
3. Read **Mark 4:10-12** Is Jesus saying that he wants some to not understand, turn and be healed? Why does he not spell everything out plainly but teach in parables to the crowd?
4. Read **Mark 4:13-20** What are the elements of the parable that Jesus unpacks? The types of soils can reflect the conditions of our hearts. Everyone wants to be the “good soil.” Of the others: path, rocky, thorny, which can you relate to the most? Is it possible to go from one type of soil to another? Jesus does not identify the sower. What do you take that to mean?
5. Read **Mark 4:26-32** What is the point Jesus is making in these parables? Do you always see whether the seeds you plant are taking root? In these farming parables or illustrations, what do you see that you are responsible for?
6. What is an area that you need to be “worked over” so that God can bear more fruit in your life/

Shaping Your Mind – *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.* Mark 3:27

Moving Forward – May the hard work of preparing the soil of your heart, result in harvest.