

Gospel Responses

Mark 4:1-20

This week we discussed the responses people always have to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Four soils were addressed by Jesus in His parable. Jesus provided three examples of bad soil that produce nothing because the Word is not allowed to take root and be nourished. However, when good soil is available, the Word of God always produces exponential results. Jesus said this story was foundational to all the other parables that He would teach. Even today, we understand there is never a problem with the Word of God; the only problem can be on the heart where it lands.

If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week, you can [watch it here](#). After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group, now is a great time to get involved. Please go to our [online Small Group platform](#) to get connected with a group that will work for you.

Please review the sermon notes below...

The Soil represents...

The Hardened Heart

The Shallow Heart

The Worldly Heart

The Regenerate Heart

1. This sermon addresses a sower, seeds, and soils. Which of these three is the focus of the parable? Why? How does the condition of the soil make a difference for the seed? Why is it imperative that God prepares a heart for the Gospel in order for someone to be saved? What difference does the sower make?
2. What is the response of someone with a hardened heart? Is this response difficult to spot? What are some examples of people that you have seen with a hardened heart to the Gospel? Is there any way you can help someone with a hardened heart?
3. How is the shallow heart similar to the hardened heart? How is it different? How long does a person with a shallow heart remain firm in the Gospel? What are some examples you have seen with this kind of heart? Is there any way to help someone with a shallow heart?
4. How is the worldly heart similar to the first two soils? Why is it just another variant of the same kind of soil? What is scary about the worldly heart? How long does it take to detect a worldly heart? Have you seen this heart? Why is this soil the most scary of all soils? What

does Hebrews 6:4-9 have to say about this group of people? Have you seen examples of this soil? Why is this soil so heartbreaking?

5. What do the first three soils have in common? What is the ultimate result of these soils? Why is it important to understand what kind of heart you have?
6. What is the fourth soil that Jesus mentions? Who is the one who makes this soil good? What does this soil produce? Why is this yield so shocking? What does this say about the heart of a believer?
7. What other verses in Scripture support the fact that believers will bear fruit and that non-believers will not endure to the end?
8. Why would Jesus take the time to tell a parable about the condition of the heart in light of the Gospel?
9. Describe your soil to the members of your small group? How can you be sure this is the soil of your heart?
10. God tills the good soil so that through repentance and faith, we can experience exponential growth in Christ. Would you like to repent and trust Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior?