

# THE GOSPEL OF MARK

# HEART SOIL



## “LISTEN UP”

\*v. 3, 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20

“God wants you to hear Him!”

\*Discipleship hangs on this term hearing, for everything depends on our receptivity.

## SECRET

\*The true sense of the word secret means a hiddenness. A secret is that which is not divulged but discovered – but once known it need not be hard to grasp. It is privileged information rather than a puzzle.

\*The message of the kingdom of God is something so paradoxical, so totally opposed to the natural human insight, that it takes nothing less than divine revelation to enable people to grasp it.

\*See the story in Daniel 2:19, 27-30, 47

## ISAIAH

\*The context of Isaiah is that God tells calls a faithful prophet to preach to faithless people. “So that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, because the last thing they want is to turn and have their sins forgiven.”

## HARD HEART

\*Heart so hard that it is impenetrable (rejection, distorted teachings, refusal to live what they know already)

\*Satan feasts on those who are indifferent and takes it by force.

## SHALLOW HEART

\*Superficial experience with divine truth.

\*Our faith is thin – our encounter with Jesus was warm and exciting but then difficulties arise, hardships come, intellectual issues present themselves and we fall apart and wither away. \* Like a mist—Hosea 6:4

## CROWDED HEART

\*Weeds grow up right along with God’s word. Both come up and flourish, but eventually the nutrients and resources of the soil would be sapped by the thorns. The soil accepts the Lord’s seed as one among many. The word survives but is unproductive.

\*There is competition for everything, and everything can’t win.

## LISTENING HEART

\*The fruitfulness of the seeds is different –(all good disciples are fruitful but their performance may not necessarily be uniform)

\*Here is the bottom line truth – GOD WANTS YOU TO HEAR HIM! Are you listening?

## Mark 4:1-20 (NIV)

<sup>(1)</sup> Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. <sup>(2)</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>(3)</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>(4)</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>(5)</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>(6)</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>(7)</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>(8)</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” <sup>(9)</sup> Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” <sup>(10)</sup> When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. <sup>(11)</sup> He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables <sup>(12)</sup> so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”” <sup>(13)</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>(14)</sup> The farmer sows the word. <sup>(15)</sup> 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. <sup>(16)</sup> Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>(17)</sup> 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. <sup>(18)</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>(19)</sup> 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. <sup>(20)</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”

“Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough.” Carver