



Adult and Teen Life Groups Conferencing Guide

SERMON DATE: 5/1/2022
DISCUSSION DATE: 5/8/2022
TEXT: MARK 4:1-20

GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER & THE SEED (vss. 1-20)

A. Listen attentively (vss. 3 & 9)

B. The seed is being sown. (vs. 2)

1. on the wayside (vs. 4)
2. on rocky soil (vss. 5-6)
3. on thorny ground (vs. 7)
4. on good ground (vs. 8)
5. everywhere

II. THE PURPOSE FOR JESUS' PARABLES (vss. 10-12)

A. For true followers to know the mystery of the kingdom

B. As a judgement to the blasphemers

III. THE EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE (vss. 13-20)

A. The seed is the Word of God.

B. Many reject the gospel.

C. Some receive the gospel.

IV. A WARNING: The Root of the Problem (application & thoughts for today)

FOR CONFERENCING

1. **Read Mark 4:1-9.** With what words did Jesus begin and end His teaching? Why is that significant? In Jesus' parable, what are the 4 kinds of soils that the seed fell on and what happened to the seed in each situation?

2. **Read Mark 4:10-12.** Who asked Jesus about the parable? From reading verses 11-12, for what reasons did Jesus use parables? To what group does Jesus want the "mystery of the Kingdom of God to be known? What does "mystery" mean in that context? **Read Mark 3:22; 28-30.** To what group does Jesus keep this mystery from and why? In verse 11, Jesus refers to "those who are outside." To whom might that be referring?

3. The seed in the parable was scattered far and wide. What might be significant about that?

4. **Read Mark 4:13-20.** Here Jesus explains His parable. What does the seed represent? Who sows the seed? What does the soil represent? Specifically, what does each type of soil in the parable represent? In each case, explain what happens to the seed and why.

5. Which soil is the only one that produces a harvest? Do most receive the gospel or some? What conclusion should we reach concerning the answer to that question? Why should that bring more encouragement to the sower than discouragement?

6. **Read Romans 10:14-15.** What is needed for someone to receive the gospel?

7. **Read Matthew 7:19-23.** What danger and/or warning should we take away for this passage? What could be some reasons that some might believe they will enter the Kingdom of God, but in that day the Lord will say, "I never knew you; depart from me."?

8. Be prepared to discuss with your group proper and improper methods of presenting the gospel (what types of presentations might result in only a shallow understanding of the gospel?).