

# RECEIVING THE WORD

Mark 4:1-13

1. IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD.
  1. What do we do with the Word?
    1. What do we do with all the words spoken in our hearing?
    2. What do we do with a lifetime of church experiences?
  2. How do we respond to the Word?
    1. Your attitude toward the Word?
    2. How do you consider the Word? Respect for it? Respect for its messenger?
  3. The Word is where strength, wisdom, stability come from.
  4. Condition of spiritual life, which is dependent upon the Word, determines how we receive the Word.
  5. Not drought for meat or drink, but for the hearing (receiving) of the Word of God.
  
2. RECEPTION OF THE WORD.
  1. Four situations in the parable.
    1. Wayside.
    2. Stony ground.
    3. Among thorns.
    4. Good ground.
  2. Three did receive the Word.
  3. Not always just the reception.
    1. Learn to guard the Word of God.
    2. Learn to guard our hearts.
    3. Be sure the Word does not become of none effect (i.e., traditions, etc.).

3. SEED FELL ON WAYSIDE: FOWLS OF AIR CAME TO DEVOUR.
  1. Not fertile ground (not even fell on soil, but hard pavement--hard heart).
  2. Not receptive--did not receive; if received, stolen before leave parking lot.
  3. Not spiritual sensitivity.
  4. No ears to hear what the Spirit says.
  5. Not even aware what is going on.
  6. Could be distraction to keep from receiving.
  7. Others have good intentions.
    1. They have potential; have heart for God; love the Lord.
    2. Possibly the next two.
  
4. SOME FELL ON STONY GROUND; NOT MUCH DEPTH.
  1. Did receive--in fact, with joy.
  2. No depth of spiritual life (spirituality dependent upon the Word).
  3. Could be those who are gullible--jump on anything that sounds exciting.
  4. Not able to discern or judge by the Word.
  5. result: Sun came out--scorched it, because no depth of the Word.
  
5. SOME FELL AMONG THORNS.
  1. Receptive to the Word; no distractions to hear.
  2. Good intention--but distractions come in form of thorns choking off growth, productivity, fruitfulness of seed (word) received.
  3. Distractions.
    1. Cares of the world (misplaced priorities).
      1. Lord, let me go bury my father.
      2. Lord, I've married a wife.

3. Lord, I've bought a piece of land.
  2. Deceitfulness of riches f(misplaced values).
    1. Working to get ahead.
    2. Deceitful when robs you of your health--your family.
  3. Lust of other things (misplaced affections).
    1. Lovest thou me more than these?
    2. Set your affection on things above not on things of the earth (Col. 3:2).
6. SOME FELL ON GOOD GROUND: BROUGHT FORTH 30, 60, 100-FOLD.
7. TWO PRINCIPLES OF SOWING AND REAPING.
  1. First the blade, then the ear, and the full corn in the ear.
    1. Don't grow up overnight.
    2. Don't see full fruit, results, complete answers to prayer overnight.
    3. Don't become full grown, mature Christians overnight.
    4. Don't move into fullness of ministry overnight.
  2. Fruit brought forth, put in sickle--harvesttime.