A Conditioned Heart Sun. am 8/16/20

Mark 4:1-20 (NKJV)

**4**And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat *in it* on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

**2**Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

**3**“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

**4**And it happened, as he sowed, *that* some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

**5**Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

**6**But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

**7**And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

**8**But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

**9**And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

**10**But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.

**11**And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

**12**so that ‘Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And *their* sins be forgiven them.’ ”

**13**And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

**14**The sower sows the word.

**15**And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

**16**These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

**17**and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

**18**Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word,

**19**and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**20**But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it,* and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

*The human heart (our spirit), is likened unto the soil in this parable. There are 4 catagories given here. The hard heart, the shallow heart, the crowded heart, and the fruitful heart.*

*First there is the hard heart, the seed that falls along the wayside. This represents people who hear the Word of God, but never really believe. To them it is just a good story, like a fairy tale.*

*Second there is a shallow heart , the seed falls on stony ground. These are people who hear the Word and receive it initially with joy, but because there is no root of the Word in their life to sustain them, they wither.*

*Thirdly there is the crowded heart. The seed falls on the ground where the weeds choke it out. Slowly and surely these people, busy with the cares of this world, riches, worries and a need to control the circumstances, lose interest in the things of God.*

# Hebrews 10:25 (NKJV)

**25**not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another,* and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

*Finally there is the fruitful heart that receives the Word. The seed of God’s word fall into a conditioned heart, the good ground and produce arich harvest for the Kingdom of God.*

# James 1:21 (NKJV)

**21**Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

*We are the ones who get to decide what kind of soil (heart) that we are going to have. The Bible teaches us that we can have as much of God and His Kingdom as we want. We reap what we sow, when we honor God He honors us. When He and His Kingdom are our priority, we are His priority.*

*God has given us a free will to choose and He honors our choices.*

# 1 Samuel 2:30 (NKJV)

**30**Therefore the Lord God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed *that* your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the Lord says: ‘Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

# James 4:8 (NKJV)

**8**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

# James 2:23 (NKJV)

**23**And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.

# 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

**15**Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

# Isaiah 1:19 (NKJV)

**19**If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;