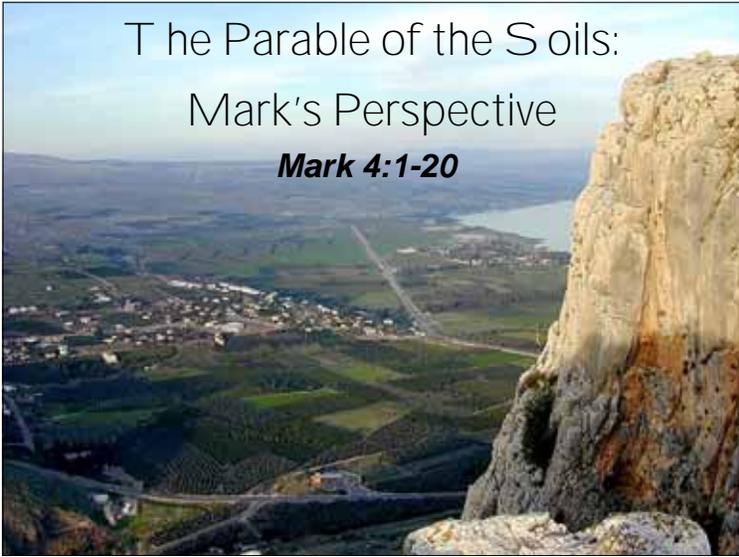
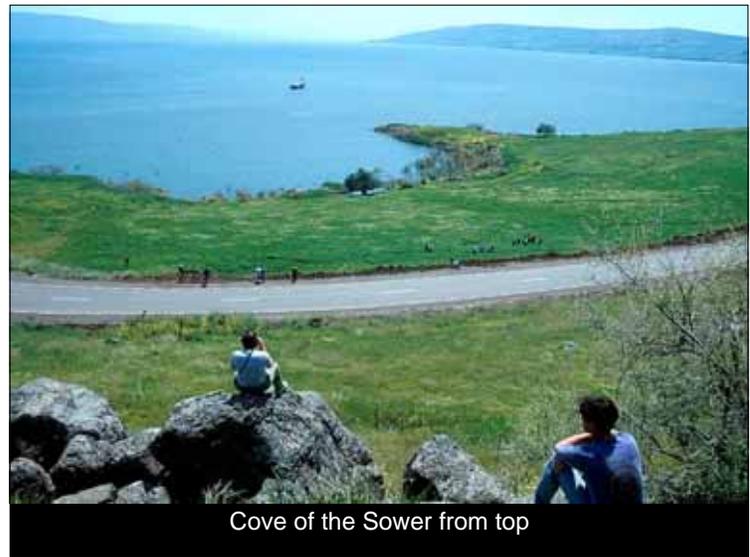


The Parable of the Soils:
Mark's Perspective
Mark 4:1-20



A Brief Review

- I. The Setting of the Parables (1-2)



A Brief Review

- I. The Setting of the Parables (1-2)
- II. The Parable of the Soils (3-9)
- III. The Purpose of Parables (10-12)

IV. The Importance of

- “And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?””
 - 1) It explains how people respond to everything Jesus teaches.
 - 2) It provides a model or pattern, a key for how to interpret other parables.

V. The Point of the Parable (14-20)

- The Seed
 - Mark 4:14 - “the Word”
 - Luke 8:11 - “the Word of God”
 - Matt. 13:19 - “the word of the kingdom.”
- The Sower
 - The parable of the tares (Matt. 13:37)—Jesus Himself
 - *Anyone* who teaches or explains the message of Jesus or the message about Jesus
- The Soils
 - 4:15 – “the word which had been sown in them.”
 - Cf. Matt. 13:19 – “hears but does not understand”; “the evil one snatches what has been sown in his heart.”

V. The Point of the Parable (14-20)

- **A. The Hard Heart (14-15)**
 - 15 - “These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.”
 - Ezek. 33:32 - “Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.”
 - Luke 8:12 -- “Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.”

V. The Point of the Parable (14-20)

- **B. The Superficial Heart (16-17)**
 - 16-17 - “In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy;” 17 “and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.”
 - “Receives” the message?
 - Cf. Luke 8:13 – “they believe for a while.”
 - 17 – “they...are only temporary.”
 - 1) *Affliction*
 - 2) *Persecution because of the Word*.
 - Grk., “falls away” = *skandalizo*
 - Cf. 1 John 2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”

V. The Point of the Parable (14-20)

- **C. The Distracted Heart (18-19)**
 - 18-19 – “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,” 19 “but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”
 - Luke 8:7 – “other seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up with it.”
 - The Thorns?
 - 1) “the worries of the world”; lit., “the worries of the age.”
 - 2) “the deceitfulness of riches”
 - 3) “the desires for other things.”
 - The Result (19): “it becomes unfruitful.”

V. The Point of the Parable (14-20)

- **D. The Prepared Heart (20)**
 - 20 – “And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.””
 - Cf. Ezek. 36:26; John 1:11-13; 6:44-45*; 8:47; 10:26-27; Acts 16:14*
 - The Prepared Heart
 - 1) Hears the Word (20)
 - 2) Understands (Matt. 13:23)
 - 3) Accepts (20)
 - 4) Holds it fast (Luke 8:15)
 - 5) Bears fruit (20; Matt. 13:23; Luke 8:15).
 - Fruit ?
 - A harvest of Christian character & good works
 - Cf. Matt. 3:8-10; Luke 6:43-44; John 15:1-8, 16; Gal. 5:22; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:10
 - Luke: “with perseverance”
 - Cf. Matt. 24:13 - the one who endures to the end, he will be

Implications

- 1) Every person who has ever heard the gospel has one of these kinds of hearts.
- 2) This parable also serves as an invitation.
 - 9 - "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
- 3) The only reason you responded to the message of the gospel was that God had prepared the soil of your heart.