Notes of YF message on 17 Oct 2026 – "Life of Christ – Response to Sound Preaching"
Text: Mark 6:14-29 Memory Verse: 2 Kings 22:19 Speaker: Pr David Chew
Notetaker: Bryan Tan

In the parable of the sower and the seed, the Lord Jesus Christ showed the four ways a hearer may respond to God's Word.

1. The Hard Ground

The hearer hardens his heart and will not allow God's Word to take root. By and by, the birds come and take away the seed of the Word. These hearers outrightly reject God's Word.

2. The Stony Ground

When the seed is planted in stony ground, its roots cannot grow deep. Though it springs up very quickly, it withers away quickly under the heat of the sun. Though this hearer receives the Word with joy, he falls away quickly when difficulties and persecutions come with being a Christian.

3. The Thorny Ground

This hearer also receives the Word with joy, but he is choked by the cares of life and the deceitfulness of riches. These distract him from the Word of God, and by and by, he falls away.

4. The Good Ground

And finally, the good ground. The hearer receives God's Word with joy, and the Word takes root in his life, and he bears forth fruits of obedience.

Here in Mark 6:14-29, we see the three ways in which a hearer may respond to the sound preaching of God's Word against sin. When sin is exposed and preached against, how will the hearer respond?

1. Response of Guilt

When a person has done something wrong, he will feel guilty. This is because God has built a conscience in all of us. It highlights a certain sense of sin, when we go against God.

When John the Baptist exposed King Herod's sin, Herod unjustly imprisoned him. And later Herod got John the Baptist beheaded. When Herod heard of the mighty works done by the Lord Jesus Christ, he immediately thought of John the Baptist because of his guilty conscience. Herod was enslaved by his own guilt. He held on to his sin and, instead of confessing his sin and asking God for forgiveness, he sinned against God even more and more.

2. Response of Fear

Herod feared John because he knew John was a just and upright man who followed God. Herod did not want John to expose his sins, so he imprisoned John, and later killed him. He feared that John would expose his sin in God's sight. He feared the truth that was coming out of John. Even though Herod had gladly heard John preaching the truth of God's Word, he failed to humble himself and to surrender himself to the truth. He feared the judgment and the consequences of his sin. He feared God but sadly, instead of surrendering, he ran.

3. Response of Anger

Herodias bore a grudge against John the Baptist because her sin was exposed by John. So, she schemed to get him killed. Even though she knew that John spoke the truth, she refused to humble herself and she refused to submit herself to the truth. She responded in anger and pride. And she silenced John the Baptist.

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