



## **PART 4: SOIL, STAND, SEED AND STORM**

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### **The Soil** MARK 4:14-20

The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup> Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. <sup>16</sup> Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the

word, they quickly fall away. <sup>18</sup> Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup> but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

The Closed Heart — a concrete road

The Confused Heart — a rock pile

The Cluttered Heart — a weed patch

The Cultivated Heart — fertile soil

### **The Stand** MARK 4:21-22

<sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? <sup>22</sup> For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open.”

The Bold Heart

### **The Seed** MARK 4:30-32

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

The Planted Heart

The measure of my growth is how many people  
seek solace in the shade of my old pain.

## **The Storm** MARK 4:37-39

<sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

### The Peaceful Heart

**When I am planted, not buried, my heart  
is soft, bold, growing and peaceful.**

## **Next Steps**

### **BAPTISM CLASS & BAPTISM**

Water baptism is an outward expression of an inward decision to follow Jesus. Next weekend (May 4 & 5) we’ll be baptizing in all our services. If you’ve chosen to believe and receive Jesus but you’ve never been baptized, we’d love to baptize you next weekend. To be included, attend a baptism class today after any service. Check out all the details on today’s program insert.

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Summarize your Easter experience in a few words.
- 2) Read Mark 4 from beginning to end. What jumps out at you?
- 3) Can you recall what type of “soil” you had in your heart when you were 18? If it’s changed since then, share how.
- 4) Are there any ways you publicly and boldly live out your faith on a day-to-day basis? How?
- 5) How do you really feel about Jesus sleeping in the back of the boat? Is he neglectful, uncaring, or indifferent to the plight of the disciples? How do you feel about his rebuke in Mark 4:40?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?