The Problem Isn't the Seed

(Mark 4:13-20)

Introduction:
1. If the law of the Lord is perfect converting the soul (Psalm 19:7), then why are so many people unconverted?
2. How can two people hear the same sermon, listen to the same Scriptures, receive the same invitation, yet one walks away unchanged, while the other leaves determined to live differently?
3. The answer to this question exposes an uncomfortable truth.
4. The gospel produces different results depending upon the condition of the heart that receives it (Matthew 22:14).

I. The Hardened Heart – Wayside

A. (Mark 4:15).
B. The problem is the hardness of the ground.
C. (Hebrews 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:19).
D. Notice the active work of Satan (Mark 4:15).

II. The Shallow Heart – Stoney Ground

A. (Mark 4:16-17).
B. What is missing is depth necessary to endure hardship.
C. Hardship doesn't cause shallow roots, it exposes them.
D. They haven't counted the cost.

III. The Crowded Heart – Thorny Soil

A. (Mark 4:18-19).
B. It is choked out by competition.
C. It is not a sudden death; you can watch it happening.
D. Competition doesn't demand opposition.

IV. The Receptive Heart – Good Soil

A. (Mark 4:20).
B. Note how the good soil works – hears the word, receives the word, and then bears fruit.
C. The evidence of good soil is not simply that something grows, but that it bears fruit.

Conclusion:
1. Brethen, we don't need a new gospel.
2. We don't need to water down the truth to appeal to the masses.
3. We need to sow the seed!
4. And that seed will produce fruit in good and honest hearts.
5. What kind of soil are you?