

## Four Hearts | Mark 4:14-20

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the one sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.

## Four Hearts, One Bears Fruit

### 1. An Indifferent Heart

- a. The problem with an indifferent heart is not a head problem, but one of warfare.
- b. You must take personal responsibility to press into Scripture; inactivity will lead to death
  - i. No activity; no fruit
  - ii. Complacent
  - iii. Apathetic
    1. "These are they who hear sermons, but pay no attention to them. It is neither money, nor meat, nor drink, nor clothes, nor company--and as they sit under the sound of it, they are taken up with thinking of other things. At the end they go away, knowing no more than when they came in." (JC Ryle)

### 2. A Superficial Heart

- a. Those with a superficial heart lack conviction and character--pressure always proves both;
  - i. "They can be moved to tears by the appeals of preachers, and talk with apparent earnestness of their own inward conflicts, hopes, struggles, desires, and fears. But unhappily there is no stability about their religion." (JC Ryle)
  - ii. "Your love is like a morning cloud, like they dew that goes early away." (Hosea 6:4b)

### 3. A Choked Heart

- a. A choked heart is always captivated by something else in addition to Christ or in substitution of Christ. Jesus provides three "thorns" that choke this heart
  - i. Cares of the world;
  - ii. Deceitfulness of riches;
  - iii. Desires for other things
    1. "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (James 4:4)

#### 4. A Teachable Heart

- a. The only heart that truly belongs to the Lord Jesus is the one that bears fruit.
  - i. ["Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." \(Matthew 3:8\)](#)
  - ii. Jesus wants your heart not your sacrifice, talent, or accomplishments.
  - iii. What is scary about these four hearts is that only one bears fruit; only one actually belongs to the Lord;

#### DISCUSSION

1. The Indifferent Heart: The passage describes a heart that is "taken by Satan" as soon as the Word is sown. How do we actively avoid an indifferent heart? Read Romans 12: 9-12
2. The Superficial Heart: According to Scripture, what is the fruit of a Christian rooted in the Word? Read Psalm 1:3.
3. The Choked Heart: What are the things of the world currently "captivating" your heart instead of Christ? Read 1 John 2:15
4. The Teachable Heart: What part do we play in being good soil for God's Word? What can we do to grow in holiness and to produce fruit? Read 1 John 2: 4-6