

I Am The Field Mark 4:1-9

I Need To Understand For Me

Mostly hear this parable used to talk about reception to the Gospel in evangelism

Easier to accept rejection when see Jesus teaching 3/4 of listeners will not remain faithful
What if I told you that "we" are the field? Would that cause me to see a need for change?
Parables are for teaching and the Gospels were spread among Christians.

Maybe we need to make application a little closer to home!

Note the importance Jesus placed on understanding among his Apostles - **Mark 4:13**

First A Few Definitions

Sower is Son of Man

Matthew places this parable in context with the parable of the tares. - **Matthew 13:37**

Seed is The Word - **Mark 4:14; Matthew 13:19; 4:23; Acts 8:12**

Path Mark 4:15

Hardened walkway between or at the edge of fields, not suitable for growing crops - **Matthew 13:19,15; Luke 8:12; 2Corinthians 4:3-4**

Satan contributes, blindness caused by hardness of heart – will not listen with understanding!
Could this be me?

Do I 'miss' some teaching because I don't like how it sounds?

Are there parts of my 'field' that are too hard to grow the Word?

Rocky Ground Mark 4:16-17

Ground full of rocks, no room for roots to grow to find nutrients

May look good until dig below the surface - **Matthew 13:20-21; John 6:60-62,66**

Unless one takes the time and effort to deepen the soil nothing useful will grow for long.

Needs senses constantly exercised - **Hebrews 5:14; Mark 13:13**

Have I been working sufficiently in mind to allow room for God to work through me? - **Ephesians 2:10**

Do I limit the area of my heart where God's Word lives?

Among Thorns Mark 4:18-19

Ground that has not been cleared or tended well

Still has previous plants using the resources - **Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14; 1John 2:16; Luke 21:34-36**

Other scriptures show how these cause unfaithfulness - **Luke 12:29-31; 1Timothy 6:9-10; 1Timothy 6:17; Galatians 6:7-9; Philippians 4:4-7**

Have I removed all the competing elements from my 'field'? Are there any distractions that hinder my growth in the Lord? Could I be stronger if I removed my concern for some of this life?

Good Soil Mark 4:20

Prepared for growing

Sufficient depth for good root growth; Kept clear of unwanted growths and junk

Regularly worked and prepared - **Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15**

This one has a desire to be productive and learn - **Acts 17:11**

Understanding is required so investigation is expected - **Colossians 1:5-6**

A willingness to study and learn is necessary for growth

Do I exercise my mind in the Word of God sufficiently to keep distractions out?

Do I let the Word grow in me?

The Fruit will show!

Am I bearing Fruit? Are there areas of my life that need some work?

Romans 6:22; Colossians 1:10; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:15; James 1:26-27; 1Timothy 6:18-19; 1Peter 4:10-11

Without constant tending, our "soil" will fail to produce!