

SEPTEMBER 15

“THERE ARE FOUR TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.”

READ

Mark 4:13-20

Jesus said if you can understand this parable, then you can understand every other parable. This is the foundational teaching on the Kingdom of God. There are four kinds of people. You've got people who hear the Word of God, and the devil steals the Word out of their hearts. Then you've got people who hear it, and their roots go down into the cracks and crevices of rocky ground — they last for a little while. There is a third group where the seeds that take root start growing up, but don't grow out. They bear leaves, but not fruit. The last group receives the Word of God with a good and noble heart. They bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some one hundred. Now if you can take that one parable and explain it, you will understand the Kingdom of God. If your heart doesn't pursue the One who is pursuing you, if you don't follow after the One who's been following you, the sown Word produces no fruit. The condition of our heart determines our response to God's Word. If your heart is hard, stony or thorny, it produces no fruit. If your heart is good ground, fertile, deep, the seed will take root and yield a bountiful harvest.

PRAY

May the Great Gardener of Heaven break up the hardness of my heart, remove the stones and the thorns, so that the precious seed of Your Word would bear much fruit in my life.

From June 1, 2003