

A FARMER PLANTS SEED**Mark 4:1-20**

1Again, Jesus taught the people by the Sea of Galilee. 2Jesus told the people stories – and the stories had a spiritual meaning. 3Jesus said, “Listen! –

“A farmer planted [wheat] seed – 4 he threw the seed on the ground. [Then, what happened to the seed?]

“[First,] some seed fell beside the road. And the birds came – and the birds ate the seed.

5“[Second,] some seed fell on rocky ground. There was only a little soil on the rocky ground. So the seed grew quickly – because the soil was shallow. 6But then the sun came up. The sun dried the plants – because the plants had no roots.

7“[Third,] some seed fell in the thorns. The [wheat] plants grew. The thorns grew, too – and the thorns choked the [wheat] plants. So the plants did not make grain.

8“[Fourth,] some seed fell on good soil. The [wheat] plants came up – and the plants grew big. And the plants made grain. Some seeds made 30 grains – some made 60 grains – and some 100 grains.”

9Then Jesus said, “Do you have ears – and can you hear? Then listen! – and don’t stop listening.”

10Later, Jesus’ disciples asked Jesus: What does this story mean? 13Jesus said to the disciples, 14“‘The farmer plants God’s Word.’ [The seed is God’s Word. And people are the soil.]

15“[First,] some people are like seed planted beside the road. These people hear God’s word. But Satan comes quickly and takes away God’s Word.

16“[Second,] some people are like seed planted on rocky ground. These people hear God’s Word – and they receive God’s Word. At the beginning, they are very happy.

17But these people have no root – so they continue for only a short time. Then, trouble and persecution come – the trouble and persecution come because they believe God’s Word. Then they quickly give up.

18“[Third,] some people are like seed planted in thorns. They hear God’s Word. 19But they worry about many things in life. And they want to get money – and they want all other things in life. So worries and money and other things choke God’s Word. And they make no grain.

20“[Fourth,] some people are like seed planted on good soil. They hear God’s Word. They receive God’s Word. And they make grain – thirty times more, or sixty times more, or one hundred times more.”

CONTENT QUESTIONS**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What did Jesus tell the people? (verse 2)

What kind of stories did Jesus tell the people?

- What did Jesus tell the people to do? (verse 3)

Why is it important to listen?

- What did the farmer do? (verse 3)

- How did the farmer plant the seed? (verse 4)

[In Jesus' time, farmers scattered the seed on the ground.]

- Where did the first seed fall? (verse 4)

- What happened to this seed? (verse 4)

- Where did the second seed fall? (verse 5)

- What happened to this seed? (verses 5-6)

[Quiz: What do you think the seed is?]

- Where did the third seed fall? (verse 7)

[Quiz: What do you think the soil is?]

- What happened to this seed? (verse 7)

- Where did the fourth seed fall? (verse 8)

- What happened to this seed? (verse 8)

- What does Jesus say in verse 9?

What kind of ears is Jesus talking about? (Spiritual ears.)

Do you think this is important? Why?

- What is the seed? (verse 14) And what is the soil?

Which one changes? – is different?

Which one does not change? Which one is always the same?

- In the first kind of soil, what happens to the seed? (verse 15)

- In the second kind of soil, what happens to the seed? (verses 16-17)

- In the third kind of soil, what happens to the seed? (verses 18-19)

- In the fourth kind of soil, what happens to the seed? (verse 20)

What do the fourth kind of people do?

Which happens first: receiving God's Word or making grain?

What is the difference between soil #2 and soil #4?

What is the difference between soil #3 and soil #4?

What is the grain (in verse 20)? What do you think?