

9. Instead of “trying” to produce fruit, what should we be doing instead?
(According to Jesus how does fruit grow in our lives?)

10. In the parable of the mustard seed, what do you think Jesus is saying about the Kingdom? What are some characteristics of the Kingdom according to the parable?

11. What does Jesus say is the benefit of the mustard plants, once it’s fully grown.

During this series, we’re going to be looking at how to cultivate good soil.
Which of these do you think are most needed for you?

- We cultivate our self-centeredness with worship (Nov 14th).
- We cultivate our apathy with obedience (Nov 21st).
- We cultivate our bitterness with forgiveness (Nov 28th).
- We cultivate our isolation with community (Dec 5th).



Sermon Notes and Takehome

November 6th, 2010

Mark 4:1-20

“Surface” is not _____.

What we often mistake for depth:

1. Bible _____.
2. A _____ or _____ experience.
3. _____ participation.
4. _____.

People don’t live deeper lives because deeper is _____.

- Our depth problem originates with _____.

The Parable of the Soils

Jesus only explains the parable to the people who _____.

- He doesn’t want to waste time on people who are not _____.

The seed is the “word of God” or the _____ of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Four types of soil:

1. The _____.
2. The _____ places.
3. The soil in the _____.
4. The _____ soil.
 - The _____ soil bears fruit.

The fruit is _____!

- Matthew 22:39ff, 1 Corinthians 13, John 15:17, Romans 13:10, Galatians 5:6, 1 John 2:10-11.

We don't bear fruit by trying to _____ . We bear fruit when our "soil" is _____.

Questions for Reflection:

Read Mark 4:1-32

1. Why do you think Jesus said in verse 9, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear?" What was he trying to communicate?
2. Why did Jesus only explain to parable to some people? Who does Mark say he explains it to?
3. Describe the soil on the path. What kind of people does this soil represent? How do you think people become "soil on the path?"
4. Describe the rocky soil. What are the "rocks" in people's lives? How do these things hinder growth?
5. Describe the soil with thorns. What are the "thorns" in people's lives? How do the thorns hinder growth?
6. What does it mean to be "good soil?" What are characteristics of people with good soil?
7. What do you think it means to "bear fruit?"
8. What are some ways people try to produce this fruit on their own?