

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 4:1–20

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

The condition of your heart determines your receptivity to the gospel.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 4:1–20

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. **2** And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: **3** “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. **5** Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. **6** And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. **8** And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” **9** And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. **11** And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, **12** so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

13 And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? **14** The sower sows the word. **15** 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. **16** And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. **17** 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. **18** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, **19** 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. **20** 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.”

- Go back and briefly recap the parable of the sower. What were the four soils and what does Jesus say each of the soils represent?
- Pastor Dustin said “the spiritually deaf cannot receive the good news of God’s kingdom.” Why do you think that is? What makes the spiritually deaf deaf?
- Pastor Dustin also encouraged us to see the soils as prideful intellect (hard-hearted), emotional experience only (shallow-hearted), and disordered loves (divided heart). Which of these soils are you prone to fall into?

- What is the danger of being spiritually deaf?
- Pastor Dustin also said “the spiritually hearing receive the good news of God’s kingdom.” How do we “receive” the good news?
- There are things that can be done to strengthen the quality of soil. What are things we can or should do to help keep our soil in good condition?
- Return back to Mark 3. In that chapter there are a lot of different audiences—crowd, disciples, family, religious leaders. How did these different groups “receive” Jesus? How should we understand this chapter now in light of the parable of the sower?
- The apostle Paul addressed receptivity of the gospel in 1 Corinthians 1:22–25. Why does Paul say the Jews and Gentiles did not receive Jesus? Why does Paul say we should receive Jesus?
- How does the parable of the sower change or affect how you view your own personal evangelism?
- Close your time together by praying. The reality is only Jesus can make hearts receptive to the good news of the kingdom. Who in your life does Jesus need to heal in order for them to receive the gospel?