


The Gospel of Mark
Part 14
How to have "ears that hear"

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

2024.2.18



A publication of  the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
 Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a "transforming church". We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent action. 1 Timothy 4:7 instructs you to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness." Since "Talking Points, Walking Points" is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to "dive deep" too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled "Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time", are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Read Mark 4:1-9, and then complete the following chart:

Feature:	Similar or Different?
Sower: Did the sower differ in identity or skill as he sowed seed on the various soils?	
Seed: Did the seed which was sown on the various locations differ in quality or virility?	
Birds: Although they're only mentioned in Soil #1, do birds fly over all sorts of soils?	
Sun/Rain: Do equal amounts of sunshine and rain fall on neighboring patches of ground?	
Soil: Do the soils differ in any way in quality or features which are present or absent?	

Return-On-Investment: How much harvest did each soil produce?

Soil #1 _____ Soil #2 _____ Soil #3 _____ Soil #4 _____

- Read Mark 4:14-20, and then discuss the following questions:
 - (v. 14-15) What might it look like for "Satan to steal the Word of God from someone's heart?"
 - (v. 16-17) What role should—and shouldn't—emotions play in the Christian life?
 - (v. 18-19) Are the things competing for these people's interests "good" or "bad"? Explain.
 - (v. 20) **All four** soils **heard** the Word—so what accounts for fruitfulness in the Christian life?
- Read Mark 4:10-13 and 21-25, and then mark everything related to hearing or understanding.

How do you explain the determinative role **this** parable plays in understanding Jesus' teachings (v. 13)?

Which soil best represents your heart? **Why** do you think that?

Sermon Text: Mark 4:1-25

1 [Jesus] began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. 2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, 3 “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and it happened that as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 “And other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. 6 “And after the sun rose, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 “And other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 “And other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they were yielding a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.” 9 And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

10 And when He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. 11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to those who are outside, everything comes in parables, 12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, LEST THEY RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN.” 13 And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?”

14 “The sower sows the word. 15 “And these are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown: when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 “And in a similar way, these are the ones being sown on the rocky places: those who, when hearing the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 “And others are those being sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for anything else enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 “And those are the ones which were sown on the good soil: they who hear the word and accept it and are bearing fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

21 And He was saying to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be put on the lampstand? 22 “For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. 23 “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” 24 And He was saying to them, “Beware what you listen to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you, and more will be given to you. 25 “For whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

Matthew 11:20-30

- 20 Then [Jesus] began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.
- 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!
For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
- 22 Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.
- 23 And Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.
- 24 Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.
- 25 At that time Jesus said, I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.
- 26 Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.
- 27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.
- 28 Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.
- 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
- 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”



A large rounded rectangular box containing a pencil icon in the top left corner and ten horizontal lines for writing.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

*"Five Question Bible Study" (see below) is useful for studying any topic.
Let's use it to explore how to prepare ourselves to hear from God...*

Monday—Read Proverbs 8:17

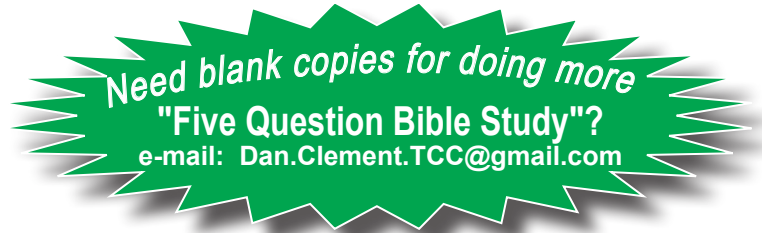
Tuesday—Read Hebrews 11:6

Wednesday—Read Psalm 14:2

Thursday—Read Jeremiah 29:13

Friday—Read Psalm 11:15-16

Saturday—Read Romans 10:17



Five Question Bible Study

Bible Text: _____ Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]