



Getting Dirty
Roger Ellis, Lead Pastor
Mark 4, p. 701

The most important parable (story) of all tells us:

- The Kingdom of God advances by the scattering of the Word of God.
- The farmer is whoever scatters the Word of God.
- The emphasis in the story is about the condition of the soil.
- Mark pictures the Word being scattered throughout his Gospel.
- Mark pictures the soils of the heart throughout his Gospel.
- Mark pictures the ongoing struggle within the heart.
- Jesus is not saying:

Don't waste seed on bad soil

If you have trusted Jesus, your soil is good

All you need to do is hear the Word

What is Jesus saying to us? Jesus is saying:

1. "Don't worry about **wasting the seed**, scatter it everywhere."
2. "Every time the Word of God goes out, seed is being scattered."
3. "The condition of your heart is an **ongoing spiritual battle**."
4. "The presence **of fruit** reveals the condition of your heart."
5. "Learn to recognize the condition of your heart."

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize the parable; the story.
- Identify the soil of your heart, today.
- What do you need to break up, dig out, or pull?
- It's time for me to be baptized (August 11).

NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY

KEEPING IT REAL

- 1** There are seeds of truth and lies being scattered around us every day. Provide examples of each and tell how these seeds eventually take root and bear fruit.

LOOK AT THE BOOK

- 2** In today's message it was stated that the miracles Jesus performed were parables too. Do you agree or disagree? Wrestle with these two examples:
a. Mark 2:1-12
b. Mark 4:35-41

- 3** Take a quick journey through the Gospel of Mark. Write down each time the soil of a heart is described by Mark in response to Jesus. How does it fit into the grid presented in Mark 4:1-20?

TAKING IT FURTHER

- 4** How selective are you with the seed you place within your heart? How do you evaluate the seed? What does Galatians 6:7-9 tell us to do?

WORSHIP LYRICS

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

[Wonderful Merciful Savior](#)

[Sing to the King](#)

[Nothing But the Blood](#)

[Here's My Heart](#)

[Only a Holy God](#)

[Great I Am](#)

[Steady My Heart](#)

[O Praise the Name \(Anastasis\)](#)

THE ONE THING: **Garden your heart!**

Miss something? Completed sermon notes are available online. Binders to organize your sermon notes are available at the upstairs Welcome Desk.