



The Sower, The Seed, & The Soil

Mark 4:1-20

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WARM UP QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever felt like someone was politely listening to you but not really hearing what you were saying? What did you do about it?
2. Have you ever found yourself acting this way towards someone?

THE PARABLE - 4:1-9

1. How does the setting of Jesus' teaching set up what Jesus is teaching?
2. What does it mean: Listening is done with the ears. Hearing is done with the heart.
3. Put slightly different: What is the difference between "listening" and "hearing"?
4. How might we listen to Jesus but not really hear Him?

THE EXPLANATION - 4:10-20

1. What is a parable?
2. Why did Jesus teach using parables?
3. Why did Jesus not explain the parable to those "outside"?
4. Why did Jesus explain the parable to those who were alone with Him?
5. What is Jesus' explanation of the four heart conditions?
6. These days, which of these conditions does your heart most resemble? Why?

PROCESSING ALL THAT...

1. What were the three suggested Fertilizers?
2. How can applying "fertilizer" help take the "wax" out of our ears?
3. These days what does look like for you to spend time with God?
4. These days what does it look like for you to study the Bible?
5. These days what does it look like for you to be silent before God?

BONUS QUESTION

1. Thinking through your answers to the above questions ("Processing All That" #'s 3-5), this week what will you do to fertilize your heart?