INTRODUCTION

This weekend we take a side-trip from John’s Gospel over to Mark’s account of Jesus’ first parable. We know it as the Sower and the Soils, but it’s really about four heart conditions. In John, we’re seeing how those who are face to face with Jesus seem oddly blind to the truths He is sharing. Think of it ... the Messiah they have longed for is standing right in front of them, and they just can’t see Him! Why? The answer is the condition of their heart. Their hearts are hard, shallow, and divided. Sadly, these heart conditions can also be found in us, and if we’re honest, we realize it. So, the question is this: How does the Word of God fall on your heart?

Picking up the story ... vV. 1, 2

The Hard Heart: vV. 3, 4, 14, 15

The Shallow Heart: vV. 5, 6, 16, 17

The Divided Heart: vV. 7, 18, 19

The Pure Heart: vV. 8, 20

“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.” Hebrews 3:12
REFLECT | MARK 4:1-20
What was Jesus’ main point in telling this parable? Have you ever been in a situation where you did not respond well to the Word of God? What type of soil would you say your heart is like right now? We don’t know what type of heart someone might have, so how do you fight the temptation to allow what Jesus said be an excuse to not share the Gospel? What are the other commands of Jesus that you hold onto despite the fact that someone may respond poorly to the Gospel?

MEMORIZE | 2 CORINTHIANS 4:3-6
“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as LORD, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

STUDY | 1 JOHN 4:1-6
How does John help us know if someone has good soil to keep sowing into? What confession does John say they must hold to? Why is this confession important? Do you listen to wise, Godly counsel from those who confess that Jesus came in the flesh? What other observations do you see in this text? How do those observations help you be more faithful in responding well to the Word of God?

SHARE
Who has God placed in your sphere of influence that might not be ready to receive the Gospel, but you can see the soil is good? How can you continue to cultivate that soil, so it will be ready to receive the Gospel in God’s timing?

PRAY
Pray for those in your sphere of influence who might not have good soil for the gospel to take hold. Ask the Lord to use you and others to help till the soil of their hearts with His word. Take some time and go to: gracebaptist.org/prayer to pray for some of the people in our congregation. Feel free to submit a prayer request of your own as well.

If you have any questions or need additional resources, email Pastor David: david.hegg@gracebaptist.org