

Mark 4:1-34 Discussion Questions

- In the parable of the sower, Jesus compares the word of God to seeds that land on different soils. What is the same in each scenario? And what is different?
- The hard soil represents Satan snatching away the word before it takes root. What are some ways that Satan tries to keep people from hearing and believing God's Word today?
- The rocky soil receives the Word with joy but falls away under pressure. What kinds of suffering or opposition most often tempt Christians to compromise their faith?
- Jesus says the thorns are "the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things." Which of those three is the greatest threat in your own life right now? Why?
 - How do "the cares of this world" creep in for you?
 - How do riches deceive? What is the truth we should hold to instead?
- Wesley said, "Ordinary things choke out the Word when we love them more than Christ." When are you most susceptible to ordinary things taking preeminence in your life?
- Wesley pointed out that the good soil is not inherently good; it only bears fruit because God's grace has transformed it and humbled the heart. How can we have receptive hearts that readily receive the word?
- Jesus says that what is hidden will one day be revealed. How does that encourage you when God's work is hard to see?

- Have you ever prayed for someone or shared the gospel for years with little to no visible fruit? How does this passage reshape your expectations?
- In the parable of the growing seed, the farmer doesn't know how the seed grows. What does this teach us about our role in ministry vs. God's role?
- Where is God calling you to simply "scatter the seed" instead of trying to control the results?
- 1 Corinthians 3 reiterates that God is the one giving the growth. How can believing that protect us from pride? From discouragement?
- Jesus compares the kingdom to a mustard seed. Why do you think He chose something so small to describe His kingdom?
- Where are you tempted to judge God's kingdom by appearances rather than by His promises?
- Jesus promises that His kingdom will ultimately triumph. How should that affect the way we think about the future of the church, especially when Christianity seems weak or marginalized?