



# PRACTICES: STUFF CHRISTIANS DO TO GROW

## SERMON 5: GRACE FOR THE GOOD SOIL

### Principle: Good Soil Is Cultivated By Good Listening

“And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Mark 4:8-9)

“But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 8:20)

### Practice: Learn to Discern and Draw Out the Gospel

“But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel,” (Gal. 2:14)

“Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain-- if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith...” (Gal 3:2-5)

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:17)

## Connection: What does Jesus want you to hear?

“The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” (Mark 4:14-20)

### Going Deeper

(For individuals or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

1. Read Mark 4:1-20. In your own words, describe the situation facing the seed in the various soils.
2. If the kingdom Jesus is bringing comes through hearing His word, what could this tell you about how Jesus’ kingdom works compared to other kingdoms?
3. What seems to be the difference with the good soil compared to the other three soils? Can you relate to one of the soils more than another?
4. How would “hearing” be different from “knowing”, “remembering”, “reciting”, or “studying” Jesus’ word about the kingdom?

Spiritual Exercise: Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this parable. This could be a clear word, an inner impression, conviction or encouragement in your spirit, but, ask Him to speak to you. Read the passage until you hear His voice. What does He want you to do to become more fruitful in your relationship with Jesus?