



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

05/29/2016

In Mark 4, Jesus shares a parable that cuts to the heart. He asks his audience, “what kind of soil are you?” How you answer this question can shed light on your relationship with God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Mark 4:1-20.

1. List the four types of soils. What does Jesus say these four soils represent?
2. Why does Jesus say he speaks in parables?
3. Division is natural with a parable: those who understand and those who do not; those inside and those outside. Who bears the responsibility for this division—the sower or the soil?
4. Why do some people fail to *really* see or hear the message about the kingdom of God? (cf. Romans 1:18-22)
5. Can you summarize in two sentences the message of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims?

6. What are some results of the person who hears the word and understands it? (cf. John 15:1-11)

7. Sometimes, no matter how long you take thinking through a problem the answer just doesn't seem to come...until someone poses the question or problem in a different way—then it just clicks. What has been your process of coming to church and pursuing a relationship with Jesus? Was there an “aha” moment?

8. Read Hebrews 3:7-15. What things result in the hardening of an individual's heart?

9. The author of Hebrews instructs his audience, “See to it” or “Take care” that none of you has an unbelieving heart. This seems to imply a responsibility on the part of the individual. What are some ways you can guard against an unbelieving heart?

10. How do you gauge the quality of your soil? What things tend to surface when your heart condition, i.e. soil, is poor?

11. What would you like to see happen over the next month regarding the quality of your heart and response to God?

MOVING FORWARD

Hearing is intentional and requires that we silence ourselves and the things around us that compete for our attention. As you take stock of your soil and the fruit your life is producing, take time to sit silently in prayer and meditate on scripture.