

## **How Do You Hear the Word?**

**Mark 4:1-20**

January 3, 2021

**1. Christ's sovereign revelation of the gospel to some and concealment of it from others (1-2, 10-12)**

**2. The varied responses to the proclamation of the gospel (3-9, 13-20)**

*Next week: 2 Timothy 1:12-2:1*

*By Steve Sherman, Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, North Brunswick, NJ.*

## Discussion Questions

The following questions are designed to be used by parents in discussing the sermon with their children, but can be used by anyone in discussing the sermon with others:

1. What stood out to you in this sermon? Why?
2. In the previous chapter, how did Israel's leaders show their rejection of Christ?
3. For what purpose did Christ begin teaching in parables?
4. In Christ's parable, what are the four types of soil? What kind of people do they represent? Which soil(s) represent Christians?
5. Read what Jesus says about the second soil in Mark 4:16-17. What are some examples of tribulation and persecution? What does it mean that they "fall away"?
6. Read what Jesus says about the third soil in verses 18-19. What does it mean that the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things choke the word?
7. What does it mean for a believer to "bear fruit" (verse 20)?
8. Why do some people truly believe the gospel and bear fruit, while other people who hear the gospel do not?

### Going Deeper:

These questions are designed for the believer to use in prayer with his/her Lord, and in discussion with brothers and sisters in the Lord:

1. What attribute or attributes of God are reflected in Mark 4:12 (understood in context)?
2. Can you think of any other places in Scripture that speak of God hardening people? In each of these instances, what is God's purpose in hardening people?
3. Are the parables in Scripture puzzles for us to try to figure out, or clear revelation from God? Explain. What is one passage that teaches that the Bible is clear and understandable?
4. Which soil is comparable to how you have listened to the word of God? Explain.
5. When we evangelize, why is it important to understand the truths Jesus teaches in the parable of the four soils?
6. How should this passage encourage you in personal evangelism?
7. What applications can be made from this passage to how we listen to the word of God in our daily devotions and in church?
8. What is the number one way you should apply this sermon this week? How can your brothers and sisters in this group help you to do so?