The Gospel of Mark-Christ the Servant

- Lesson 8 -

Mark 4:1-20	Your Personal Notes:
1.And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.	
2.And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,	
3. Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:	
4.And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.	
5.And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:	
6.But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.	
7.And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.	
8.And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.	
9.And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.	
10. And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.	
11.And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:	
12. That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.	
13. And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?	
14.The sower soweth the word.	
15.And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.	
16.And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;	
17. And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.	
18.And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,	
19. And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.	
20. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.	

Spurgeon's Notes on Mark

- **4:3** Every true believer should go out with this one design--to scatter the good seed of the kingdom and to try to obtain for it an entrance into the hearts of their hearers.
- **4:4** The sower could not help that. It was not his fault but the fault of the hard path and of the birds. So when the word of God is denied entrance in to the people's hearts, the witness will not be blamed by his or her Master; the fault lies between the hard heart that will not let the seed enter in and Satan who came and took it away.
- 4:5 Persons with shallow characters are often quick in receiving religious impressions, but they also lose them just as quickly. Those who are hasty and impulsive are as easily turned the wrong way as the right way.
- **4:8** There were three failures but one success, or perhaps we might more correctly say three successes. Three sorts of ground yielded nothing, but at last the sower came to a piece of soil that had been well prepared and, therefore, was good ground that yielded fruit, though the quantity varied even there--"thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred."
- **4:15** Satan is prompt. We may delay, but Satan never does.
- **4:17** The sower in the parable is not blamed because his work was lacking. As the soil was so shallow, the apparent result was quick, and the disappointment was equally quick. I do trust that we will never be satisfied with temporary godliness, with slight impressions soon received and soon lost.
- 4:19 How can there be room for Christ in the inn when it is crowded with other guests?