

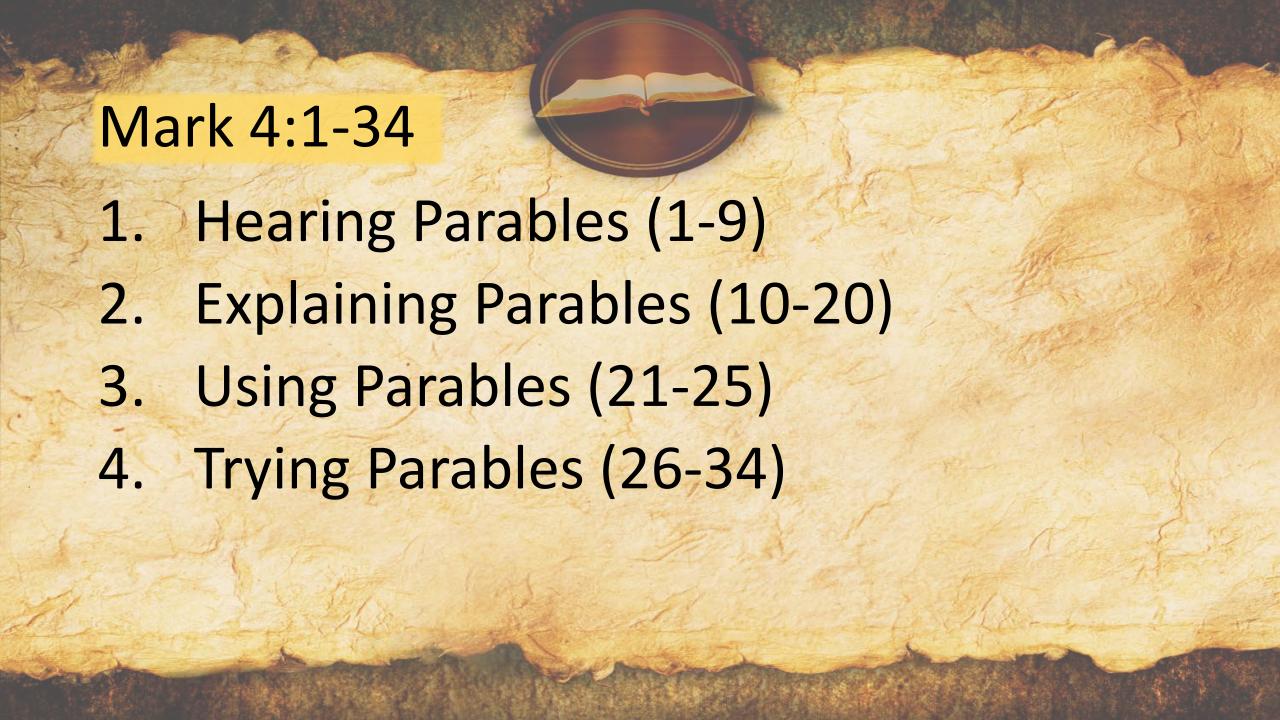




- •Three responses to His ministry in 3:20-35
 - Family didn't get it
 - Scribes rejected it
 - Disciples accepted and acted on it
- Context: Chapter 4 comes after Chapter 3

Mark 4:1-34

- •Introduction (4:1-2)
 - •Parable (Soils) to the crowd (3-9)
 - •[Explanation to His followers (10-25)]
 - Parable (Growing) to the crowd (26-29)
 - Parable (Mustard Seed) to crowd (30-32)
- •Closing (33-34)



Hearing Parables

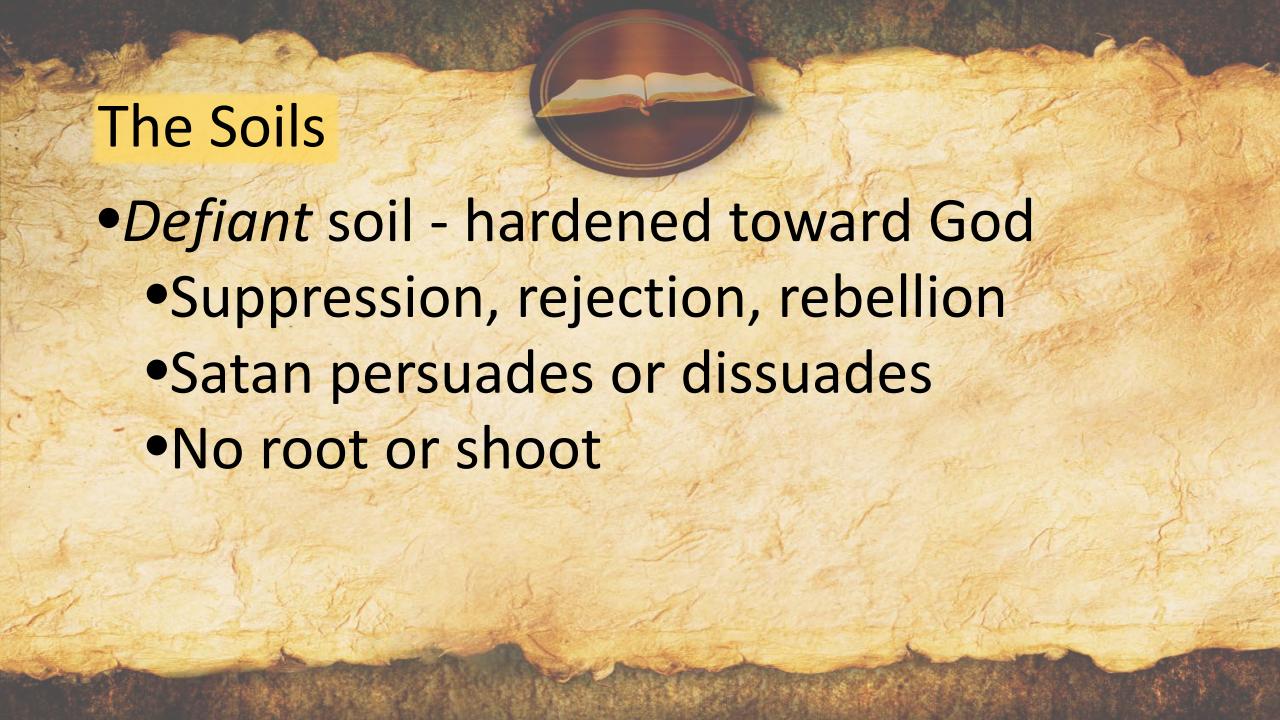
- He began teaching in parables
 - •Shift in His ministry style (Matt. 13:10)
 - •In response to unbelief (Mark 3:20-30)
 - An act of both judgment and mercy
 - The truth is now concealed
 - They are not rejecting blatant truth



- He began teaching in parables
 - •Drew a line between the crowd and true followers (10)
 - •...between the Nation and individuals (Mark 3:35; cf. Matt. 3:9; Rom. 9:6-13)

Explaining Parables

- Parable of the Soils is self-authenticating
- "He who has ears to hear..."
 - Mark 4:9; 8:18; Matt. 13:43; Luke 14:35;
 Rev. 2:7, 11, 17; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9
 - Places great responsibility on the hearer!
 - Choices have consequences

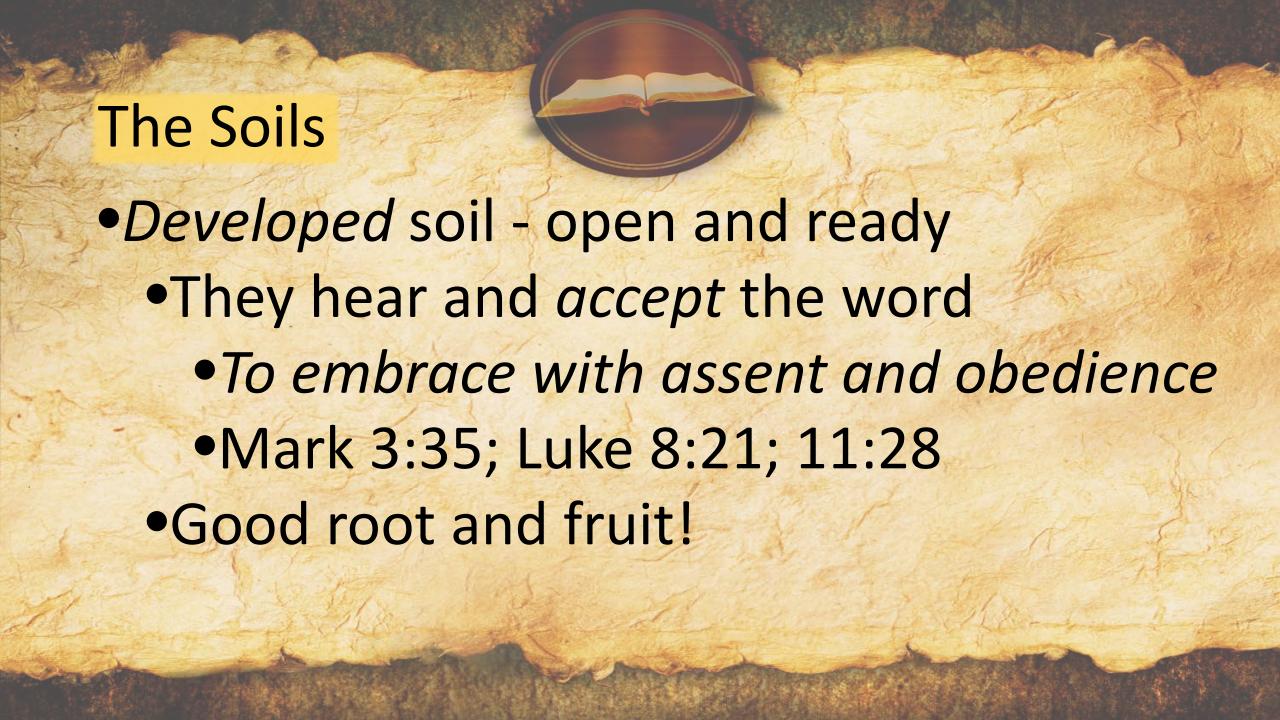


The Soils

- Dejected soil soft on the surface
 - Shallow topsoil on flat rock
 - •Immediate emotional response without counting the cost
 - Immediate falling away with affliction
 - Small shoot, no root

The Soils

- Distracted soil good but crowded
 - Worries, riches, wrong desires
 - •Cf. James 4:1-11
 - May be saved, but no mind renewal
 - Earthly priorities; walking in the flesh
 - Root but no fruit

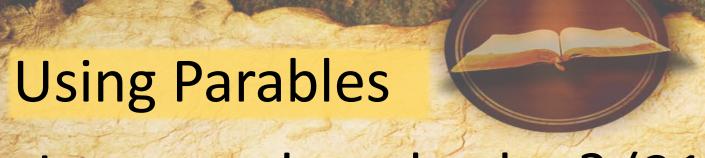


Explaining Parables

- •Did Jesus want people to NOT understand?
 - •"so that" purpose or consequence?
 - •lsa. 6:8-13 judicial judgment for lack of hearing (cf. John 12:40; Acts 28:26)
 - They do not want to turn from their sin
 - •Contrast Rom. 1:18-32 & Heb. 11:6

Explaining Parables

- To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God
 - •You = those who respond in faith
 - You will understand and act on it
 - You will produce fruit
 - •You have some responsibilities, though...



- Lamp under a basket? (21)
 - You have been given the truth
 - •Don't cover it up! Don't keep it to yourself!
 - •Put it on a lampstand let it shine out!

Using Parables

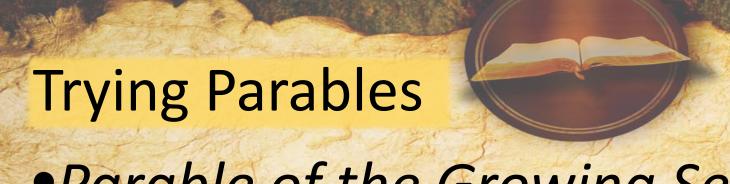
- Take care what you listen to (24)
 - •NIV: "Consider carefully what you hear"
 - Appeal for spiritual perception
 - •Dig, meditate, wrestle (cf. Prov. 1:1-7)
 - You get out of it what you put into it
 - Profit is proportional to diligence (24b)



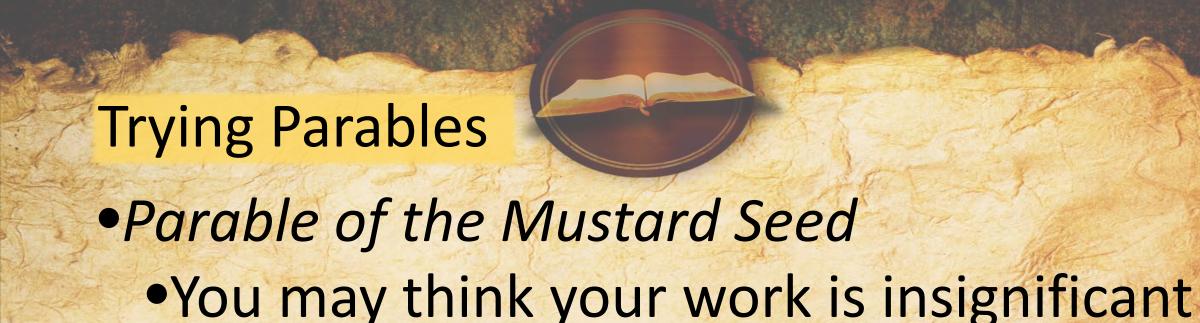
- •"I don't have time!"
 - Maybe you need to pull some weeds (19)
- "I don't have training"
 - •Can you read? Can you think?
 - •Use what you have (25)
 - •We would love to help!



- Whoever has, to him more shall be given
 - •Faithful with little -> given more (Matt. 25:21, 23, 28, 29; Luke 16:10-12; 19:26)
- Whoever does not have...
- Exercise -> strength, but apathy -> atrophy



- Parable of the Growing Seed
 - Your job is to spread the good news
 - The word will do the work
 - You don't have to understand how
 - •Be ready to harvest (cf. Gal. 6:9)



- Put the small seed groves (on its own) and
- But the small seed grows (on its own) and will produce a great tree
- •God's kingdom will be amazing!

Summary

- •Recap of 3:20-35
 - •His family didn't get His message
 - Scribes rejected His message
- So Jesus encouraged true disciples to be ready to accept and act on it (4:1-34)
 - •It will take work, but it will produce

So What?

- Sometimes God gives us what we want
 - •Act of blessing (Matt. 7:7-11) or act of judgment (2 Tim. 4:3-4; Rom. 1:18-32)
 - •So be careful of what you want!
 - •Depth? Or shallowness? (16-17)
 - •God? Or other things? (18-19)

So What?

- Are you open and ready to receive what God has to say to you?
 - Considering ALL that God says, not just your favorite parts?
 - •Are you searching, studying, wrestling?
 - Doing? Applying? (James 1:21-25)