

Four Mindsets for 2022

Case For Christ part, (Study of Mark's Gospel) part 12
January 16th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Lessons from the "Parable of the Sower" (Mk 4:1-20)

1. Cultivate ...

(Mark 4:3-4, 15)

Hardened Soil = C _____ Mindset

Three Causes: _____, _____, _____
(1 John 4:18, James 1:20-21)

2. Anticipate ...

(Mark 4:5-6, 16-17)

Shallow Soil = C _____ Mindset

(1 Timothy 4:7-8, Jeremiah 17:7-8)

3. Eliminate ...

(Mark 4:7, 18-19)

Thorny Soil = C _____ Mindset

Three Examples: _____, _____, _____

4. Cooperate ...

(Mark 4:8, 20)

Good Soil = C _____ Mindset

(James 1:22-25)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our first week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a general fun question to get us warmed up :).

Last Sunday, we read about 'The Parable of the Sower' in Mark 4:1-20.

We read how the sower scattered seeds and how the seeds fell on four different types of ground.

Speaking of scattering (throwing) and growing things ... what memories do you have growing things ... or throwing things? What was something you enjoyed growing? What did you learn as you figured out what to do or not do?

Regarding throwing things, did you ever play sports where you threw something? If so, what was one of your favorite memories? If not sports, what do you remember throwing that either was a good memory ... or not so good?

Looking back on last year, what was one of the positive memories you have that you enjoy thinking back on?

If you don't want to think back that far :), as 2021 has wrapped up and 2022 has begun, what has encouraged you (big or small) that we can rejoice with you over?

As Christ followers, we are encouraged to maintain receptive hearts to what God says in the Bible. However, there are times when we don't follow God's promptings.

Can you think of any reasons why a person (other than yourself) hesitates or ignores what they know God wants them to do?

Which of these reasons do you struggle with the most?

We heard about four different types of soil on Sunday. Can you think of a time in your spiritual journey when your life was characterized more by one of the first three soils than the last one?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 4:1-9, 14-20)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. The parable of the sower is about our responsiveness to God's Word. The following passages all deal with the positive impact the Bible can have in our lives when we are responsive to it.

What benefits are described in these passages as we trust God's Word and apply what it says to our lives?

Psalm 19:7-14

Psalm 1:1-3

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Have you experienced any of these benefits in your life? If so how and when?

Which of these benefits could you use the most right now?

2. While we can influence other people, we were reminded on Sunday that we have no control over the type of soil they choose to be.

In the following verses, what actions do you find that help us influence people in a positive way?

1 Peter 2:11-17

Mark 2:15-17

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Given your current situation, which of these actions is most challenging for you to do?

3. The third soil Jesus talked about was the 'thorny soil' (Mark 4:7, 18-19). In these verses, "the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things" choke out the Word.

As Christ followers, we are encouraged to not let that happen to us.

How can reading and reflecting on 1 John 2:15-17 motivate us to not let ourselves become distracted or consumed by these things?

What are some signs that a person is being distracted by the world?

Was there a time in your life when you struggled with either anxiety, accumulation or adventure to the point of weakening your Spiritual growth and being less responsive to God's promptings?

More recently, what has helped you deal with these potential distractions?

Wrapping Up:

One of the things that was emphasized last Sunday was that the only soil we can till is our own. How can you say what that means in your own words?

How would you say you are doing at tilling your own soil?

What can you do to increase the responsiveness of your heart to God's Word?

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?