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Paul Gotthardt
(#3 in series)

THIS IS THE GOSPEL

A Guide to Relationally-Centered Discipleship

The Principles of Gospel Preparation

Mark 4:1-20

Soil

Some people do not understand the gospel (vv. 3-4, 15).

The Soil (vv. 3-4): "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and birds came and ate it up." (NIV)

The Explanation of the Soil (v. 15): "Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them." (NIV)

Soil

Some people do not understand the cost of following Christ (vv. 5-6, 16-17).

The Soil (vv. 5-6): "Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root." (NIV)

The Explanation of the Soil (vv. 16-17): "Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away." (NIV)

Soil

Some people want the world more than God (vv. 7, 18-19).

The Soil (v. 7): "Others fell among thorn bushes, and the thorn bushes came up and choked them, and they didn't produce anything." (NIV)

The Explanation of the Soil (vv. 18-19): "Still others are like the seeds sown among the thorn bushes. These are the people who hear the word, but the worries of life, the deceitful pleasures of wealth, and the desires for other things come in and choke the word so that it can't produce a crop."

Soil

Some people are receptive to the gospel (vv. 8, 20).

The Soil (v. 8): "Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

The Explanation of the Soil (v. 20): "Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."