

Bible Study 04-15-2026

Title: "We Need the Rain"

Scripture: Mark 4:1-9

Anyone who has ever planted a garden knows that several things are needed in order to enjoy the fruits of their labor. There must be good soil, good seed, good work habits, commitment and dedication, plowing, sowing the seed, weeding the garden...During Jesus' time, fields were not plowed immediately before the sowing. Plowing took place soon after the harvest. The only time it would be plowed before sowing is that the field had been left fallow (untilled, dormant or inactive).

In this lesson Jesus tells a crowd about a sower whose seed fell on different types of soil. Some seed fell on the path. Others fell on rocky ground, and among thorns, but none of that seed produced grain. He then said that some of the seed fell on good soil and produced abundantly.

Jesus then compared the Kingdom of God to someone who plants seed that grows to full harvest without the sower's knowledge of the process. Note: the growth of a seed is in God's time and in His own way.

**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,*

The multitude was so great that they overflowed the seashore, and they pressed in upon Jesus, forcing Him into a boat, and there He preached. The first lesson here, "sow the seed."As Jesus stood in the boat, He knew the kind of people who sat before Him. He knew the soil, He knew their heart. The heart of man is revealed in the way he has lived, responded and carried himself throughout life. God holds each hearer personally responsible for how he receives and responds to The Word of God.

A parable: is a comparison. It is an earthly event pointing out a heavenly truth.

**3** *Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:*

The sower went forth and sowed. When it comes to sharing or teaching the Word of God, it is not our responsibility to determine in advance who will be receptive or not. Our assignment is simply, "to sow the seed."

**4** *And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.*

Long narrow footpaths were used for the traveling public and became hard as pavement. The seeds were trampled down and devoured by birds. They heard the Word but they did not understand it. They are hard and closed minded and the seed was stolen by Satan.

(Acts 28:27, Hebrews 2:1)

**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.*

Shallow soil. They heard and received the Word but have no roots. When persecutions and trials arise, they will fall away. He has not rooted and grounded himself in the Word and in prayer. He must learn about sacrificial obedience: 2 **Tim** 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved". **Matthew** 10:22 NIV "*You will be hated by everyone because of Me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*"

**7** *And some fell among thorns and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.*

The thorny ground is deceptive ground. It appears to be clear of weeds and thorns but underneath the surface of the soil is a chain of roots ready to spring up. A person who receives the Word but attempts to mix it with the pleasures of this life. The fact that the roots already exist means that the thorns will be stronger and grow faster than the good seed. They will choke the life out of them.

Thorns are the "cares of this world". They keep pricking away at the Word and hinders a person from pursuing his task. When a person's mind is on the cares of this world, his mind is not on God. He is carnal-minded, not spiritual-minded.

**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.*

Fertile ground. This person receives the Word with an honest, sincere, and understanding heart. All seeds in the good ground will bear good fruit, but each plant varies in its degree of fruitfulness. Very few will bear 100 percent of their potential fruit.

**John 15:5** *I Am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.*

**9** *And he said unto them. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

The ear has no greater purpose than to hear the message of God.

**Song:** "Rain On My Field" by Bishop Carlton Pearson

Rain on my field, rain on my field, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, rain on my field

*leader:* Lord, the ground of my heart is Your field, But sometimes I let the cares of this world,

I let my field get hardened, Lord, break up, break up the fallow ground,

And plant new seeds once again, so my harvest may be plentiful, and useful to Your hands

Lord rain on my field...