



Sermon Series: The Word of God

Sermon Title: Receiving the Word of God, part one

Date: September 19, 2010

Mercy Me: Word of God Speak.

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay
The last thing I need is to be heard
But to hear what You would say

[CHORUS]

Word of God speak
Would You pour down like rain
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty
To be still and know
That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness
Word of God speak

I'm finding myself in the midst of You
Beyond the music, beyond the noise
All that I need is to be with You
And in the quiet hear Your voice

I'm finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is it's okay

You are only as strong a Christian as you are strong in the word of God.

My goal for all of us is to become mature Christians

The only way you can be one is to have the word of God embedded in your heart and respond to it. I want each of us to have a hunger for the word; like Jeremiah said it tasted like honey; my prayer is that the word will become as sweet as honey for all of us.

Background: V1 & 2 – on the sea Galilee Jesus is on the water. His pulpit was on the water. Verse 1 says that there was a large crowd. I'm sure Jesus wondered about this crowd; were they really listening? Now in that crowd were the true disciples soaking in every word. I'm sure that there were in this crowd like there are in every crowd those that were distracted. I know every time I preach there are people that are into the sermon and then there are others that are counting the light bulbs. "I hope he'll hurry up....", also in that crowd was probably the Pharisees. They were listening but not hearing the word of God. Is it possible to listen to the word of God and not really hear it? That's the real purpose for this parable in Mark 4.

Read: Mark 4: 1-9

Verse 9: Ears = Spiritual Ears

Why is our response to the Word of God so different?

Some are so hungry for the Word and some have no taste for it at all. The issue is the receptivity of a person's heart to the Word of God.

We need to understand the character or pictures that Jesus uses to understand what this parable is all about.

Jesus gives us a word of explanation of this parable in Mark 4: 13 – 20.

Jesus gives us four pictures to help us understand what this parable is all about.

This 1st Picture is The Seed: The Seed is the Word of God.

The 2nd Picture is the Sower: The sower is anyone who proclaim the Word, he could be a SS Teacher, Preacher, Evangelist, missionary, in this case the sower was Jesus

The 3rd Picture is the Enemy: the Enemy is Satan. Satan steals the seed. Satan's goal when you are presented the word of God is to try to blind you. Satan does not want the Word of God to take root in your life, because if the Word of God takes root in your life it will change you. He does not want your life changed by the Word of God. Verse 15

The 4th Picture is the Soils: Verses 15 – 20. The soils are the four levels of receptivity of those hearing the Word of God, the soil is your hearts condition whether or not you can receive what God is saying – do I have a heart that will respond His word. Jesus is saying in this Parable that we have the capacity to hear, receive and respond to His word.

Today we are going to look at one type of soil and next Sunday we will look at the other three types of soil.

This morning the first type of soil is the IMPENETRABLE HEART: Verse 15

Some hearts are so hard that they can't receive the Word of God it just bounces off.

What are some things that Satan will use?

- **Our Past**: Some of us hear God Loves You, because no one has ever loved you, you can't believe that God could. I can't receive that.
 - Or you've made a big mistake, Satan pounds it in your mind so your heart is so hard that you think you can't be forgiven of that, 1 John 1:9.
 - Satan will use your past to harden your heart so you can't receive the word of God.

When you receive God's word you understand God's love and forgiveness. It changes your life Satan does not want you to have a changed heart/life.

Another thing that Satan will use to make your heart impenetrable is:

- **Your Pain**: Someone has hurt you. You erect a wall so no one will hurt you again. God's word says we have to forgive and let go, but you can't do that because you have built this wall and your pain won't let you forgive and forget.
- **Your Peers**: Show me your close friends, show me who you want to impress and I can tell you whether you've been walking with the Lord and receiving his Word. You run around with the wrong crowd and you begin to harden your heart to what God is saying. You begin listening to the crowd instead of the Almighty God.
- **Your Pursuits**: What if your pursuits don't match the purpose God has for your life, you say "I'm my own man, I'll do my own thing" but what if the God who created you has another plan for you, you can't hear Him because you want to do things your own way. Again you have built a barrier that the Word of God can't penetrate.
- **Your Pleasures**: There is nothing wrong with sports, gardening, hobbies, but when those things become more important than God. I'll bet there are people today that are not in church because they've allowed their pleasures to take place of worshipping God. They can't hear God because they have their own agenda. Our Pleasures can make our heart rock hard.
- **Your Prejudices**: Some have been taught all their lives to think about someone a certain way because of their skin color, and they can't think another way the way God would want you to love and accept another person because it's been pounded into your life and your heart has become rock hard.
 - Some people are prejudice because of the way someone talks.
 - Or the customs we have "I don't care what the Bible say's we've always done it that way here"
- **Your Popularity**: Some people become legends in their own minds, "God wouldn't ask me to do that, I'm the CEO of this company doesn't He know who I am?" Sometimes we can't hear God speaking to us because we've put ourselves so high on a pedestal we can't hear Him.

- **Your Perversions:** Proverbs says “As a man thinks so is he”. People will try to justify their sins. They become impervious to the Word because of their perversions- they don’t listen to the Word of God because it wants to change their lives. Their of churches today that say that there is nothing wrong with homosexuality, or any other host of sins, they rationalize many perversions even though His word says different. **Sin that is not quickly confessed will become quickly justified.** If you try to hang onto your sin and try to justify it and rationalize it and say everybody else is doing it - you have built an impenetrable heart.
- **Your Pride:** Your Pride will keep you from hearing the Word of God. Hell is full of people that are too proud to listen and to receive the Word of Jesus and ask for forgiveness of their sins. My prayer is that you accept the forgiveness of Jesus before it is eternally too late. Jesus said “I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me” What are you going to do with that???
- I’m just as good as those people down at the Baptist church, but the problem isn’t your goodness, the problem is our lostness and we can’t be saved without a savior and His name is Jesus. Who shed His regal royal blood for you. Through Him you can have eternal life. If you reject Him and reject His word you will have built an impenetrable wall that is so hard that the seed of God’s word cannot penetrate and can never take root.

Conclusion/invitation