

TELL THE JESUS STORY WELL – PART II
“Spiritual Receptivity”
Mark 4:1-20

The core of spiritual life takes place in the heart. Everybody’s heart is different. Why are some people hardened against God and want nothing to do with him? Why are some people open to having a conversation about Jesus and show great interest? In both cases, it’s a question of the condition of their heart. Today’s teaching will focus on the importance of having a healthy heart that is receptive to God’s word.

#1. THE PARABLE, vv. 1-3

- A. The farmer – a believer
- B. The farmer sows seed – sharing the gospel

#2. FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOIL PRODUCE FOUR DIFFERENT RESULTS, vv. 4-9

- A. The path: the birds ate the seed
- B. The rocky places: have no root the sun withered the plant
- C. The thorny soil: choked the plant causing no fruit
- D. The good soil: produced a great crop

#3. OUR SPIRITUAL SENSES MUST BE IN TUNE WITH GOD, vv. 10-13

- A. The secret of the Kingdom is for insiders, vv. 10-11
- B. Those on the outside get parables, vv.11-12
- C. The call to repentance by Isaiah was rejected, Isa 6:9, 10
- D. The call to repentance by Jesus was often rejected, v. 12

APPLICATION POINTS

- ♠ Walk in the _____ you have so you don’t _____, v. 25
- ♠ Don’t _____ the promptings of the Holy Spirit, Eph 4:30

#4. THE PARABLE EXPLAINED - FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF HEARTS PRODUCE FOUR DIFFERENT RESULTS, vv. 13-20

- A. The path: represents the _____ heart
Characteristics:

- B. The rocky soil: represents the _____ heart
Characteristics:

- C. The thorny soil: represents the _____ heart
Characteristics:

- D. The good soil: represents the _____ heart
Characteristics:

APPLICATION POINTS

- ♠ When sharing the gospel we need to be ready for different _____
- ♠ These 4 types of soil / hearts can be true of _____
- ♠ How do we keep our spiritual heart _____?

ANSWERS: Truth, lose it, Ignore, Hard, Impulsive, Cluttered, Receptive, Responses, Believers, Healthy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What were some of the different responses to Jesus during his ministry?
- #2. In the parable the seed represents the word of God. In what way(s) is the gospel a seed?
- #3. Discuss the different types of soil and the crops they yielded, vv. 3-8
- #4. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
- #5. Jesus quoted Isaiah 6:9-10 in v. 12. What did this mean in Isaiah's day? Discuss how Jesus utilizes the Isaiah passage in his day.
- #6. Discuss the concept of spiritual senses.
- #7. Discuss the characteristics of each type of heart in point 4 on the outline.
 - A. The hard heart
 - B. The impulsive heart
 - C. The cluttered heart
 - D. The receptive heart
- #8. In what ways can the first three be true of believers?
- #9. How can we keep our hearts healthy?
- #10. What does this parable teach us about sharing the gospel?
- #11. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

Welcome to Hillcrest Church

Love, Acceptance, Forgiveness

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

*January 15, 2023
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS!

Thank you for visiting us this morning. We hope you have a blessed time of worship.

ONLINE GATHERINGS ARE BACK

Prayer Meeting: Tuesday at 7pm with Pastor Tim Brooks
Bible Study: Wednesday at 6:30pm with Pastor Bruce. Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access the gathering.

WINDOW REPLACEMENT – PROJECT “WINDOW 23”

We are replacing several of the windows in our facility. The cost is \$5,000. A campaign is underway to raise the money to pay for this much needed upgrade. If you would like to give to this project write “window” in the memo of your check, or designate “window” on your offering envelop. Weekly totals will be given in the bulletin. This is not to be in place of your regular offering, it is in addition to it. Thank you for your financial support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 – VISION SERVICE

We are having a special service that will focus on the vision for the new year. You don't want to miss this!

Telling the Jesus Story Well! Specialized Training

Beginning

February 15th, Wednesday at 6:30pm, in Zoomland

Team Teaching by pastor Bruce, Paul & Pat Milton

In 2023 Hillcrest is focusing on reaching out to our community.

We are offering interactive training to do this, which will include but not be limited to:

- ♣ Discussing the components of the gospel
- ♣ Discussing the Scriptural basis of the gospel
- ♣ Discussing different approaches to sharing the gospel
- ♣ How to craft your own gospel presentation
- ♣ How to craft your own testimony
- ♣ How to answer objections to the gospel
- ♣ How to engage people in a spiritual discussion
- ♣ How to invite someone to church
- ♣ How a church can be present in a community

You are invited! We are gearing up for a new adventure and would love to have you be involved in the training.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

We want to represent Jesus well!