

090124

Seeds of Hope

Mark 4:1-20

Scott Grant



Background

Please join us as our guest speaker, Scott Grant, pastor at Peninsula Bible Church (Palo Alto), shares with us from the Parable of the Sower.

Sermon Text: *Mark 4:1-20 (ESV)*

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." 9 And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, 12 so that

*"they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven."*

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a

while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Scott said that the parables have been formative for him in his life. Have the parables been formative for you in your life? Why or why not?
- b. There is much failure in this parable. Share a time in your life when you failed, and explain what you did in the midst of that failure.
- c. God seems to come through when all hope is lost. Why? Because He wants our faith to grow. Name a time in your life when He came through for you, and how your faith grew. How does this impact how you move forward into other crises in your life?
- d. Name a person who has sowed seeds in your life. Name another person in whom you are sowing seeds.
- e. We trust God for the growth, so we “sow the seeds and get out of the way.” Where have you had to take your hands off of a situation in which you care a great deal?