

THE CALL TO A FAITHFUL SERVANT  
Mark 4:1-32 (NIV)

*Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. <sup>2</sup>He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said..."*

Mark 4:1-2 (NIV)

❖ Called to SOW:

*"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

Mark 4:3-9 (NIV)

1. The HARDENED Soil.
2. The SHALLOW Soil.
3. The WEEDY Soil.
4. The RICH Soil.

❖ Called to SHARE:

*When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables <sup>12</sup>so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? <sup>14</sup>The farmer sows the word. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup>but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>20</sup>Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."*

Mark 4:10-20 (NIV)

1. The HARD HEART.

2. The SHALLOW HEART.
3. The CROWDED HEART.
4. The FRUITFUL HEART.

❖ Called to STAY the COURSE:

*He said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don't you put it on its stand? <sup>22</sup>For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. <sup>23</sup>If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. <sup>24</sup>Consider carefully what you hear," He continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you--and even more. <sup>25</sup>Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him." <sup>26</sup>He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>All by itself the soil produces grain--first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." <sup>30</sup>Again He said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."*

Mark 4:21-32 (NIV)

1. Let your LIGHT SHINE.

*"In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

2. Give and see God GIVE it BACK.

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

Luke 6:38 (NIV)

3. Your work for God will always PRODUCE a HARVEST (Don't Give Up).

*So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.*

1 Corinthians 3:7 (NIV)

4. God can take your FAITH and turn it into something GREAT.

*He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."*

Luke 17:6 (NIV)