

## The Essential Word of God – Part 2 - Julian Barnard

Last time we looked at 3 key points about God's Word

1. The Word is the Entrance to the Presence of God
2. The importance of the Word of God, the Bible
3. The Word will be Contested

Today we look at our response to God's Word. Whether from the Bible or maybe via prophecy, I want us to see our responsibilities and how we should respond when God speaks to us either individually or as a church

Mark 4:1 -20. Also see Matthew: 13:1–23, Luke 8:4-21

### Introduction

Mark 4 refers to the dynamic of God's word effecting Christians and not specifically (or only) an evangelistic response by non-Christians to salvations message. In Matthew 13:19 Jesus says that the seed is the word of the kingdom - not salvation

The seed is the word of God. Every word God speaks to us will always be a seed. The ground or soil is our heart.

### Why is Jesus Teaching on the Word so Important?

**It is a Key Parable.** Verse 13 says that if we understand this parable we will understand all things.

**It is a Key to understanding the enemy's activity.**

Satan seeks to immediately snatch the word.

**It is a Key to Fruitfulness.** v20 shows us that a seed sown on good soil bears 30, 60 or 100 fold. He calls us to bear fruit and for our fruit to remain John 15:16

Remember we are God's fruity people (get the cd)

**It is a Key to Progressing in our Christian Life.** Faithful use of and correct application of God's word qualifies us for more and growth (with testing and pruning)

## **The Soil of My Heart**

Every word sown whether from the Bible or by prophecy will always get one of the following heart responses

It can be immediately snatched away. Mark 4:15

It's as if it was never there. Luke 8:5 talks about the word getting trampled on.

We receive the word with joy but we are too shallow and immature to hold on to the word. Mark 4:16 – 17.

Luke 8:6 speaks about a lack of moisture. To me this highlights our essential need of the water of the word and the water of the Holy Spirit.

The Word can be lost through worry or a desire for other things. Mark 4:18 – 19. Other things may not just be worldly things such as money, pleasure or sin. It can be Christian things too.

The seed that falls in the good soil bears much fruit.

Matthew 13:23 Luke 8:15

## **Our Responsibilities**

To be a good soil and let the Word do its work.

## **God's Responsibilities**

The seed and growth Mark 4:26 – 27

Soak yourself in God's Word and each Sunday's teaching

Return with a passion to the Bible.

Here are some scriptures to soak in and confess

Psalms 1, Hebrews 4:12 - 16, Joshua 1:8

Proverbs 4:4. Proverbs 30:5 Proverbs 28:5 Proverbs 12:6

Ministry Time - Job 14:7-9 and Daniel 4. God's heart is to reignite our love for His word and to refill us with His Spirit.

## **Questions**

How is my heart when I hear the preaching each Sunday?

Have I been robbed of something God spoke to me?

What specifically is God's Word highlighting to me?