

# The Word of God is Available!

Hempfield United Methodist Church

"Live Like Christ"

November 18, 2018

## Mark 4:1-9 - Parable of the Sower

Again he began to teach by the sea, and a very large crowd gathered around him. So he got into a boat on the sea and sat down, while the whole crowd was by the sea on the shore. **2** He taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

**3** "Listen! Consider the sower who went out to sow. **4** 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 didn't have much soil, and it grew up quickly, since the soil wasn't deep. **6** When the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away.

**7** Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it didn't produce fruit.

**8** Still other seed fell on good ground and it grew up, producing fruit that increased thirty, sixty, and a hundred times."

**9** Then he said, "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen."

## Interpretation from Mark 4:13-20

### The Seed

The seed is the Word of God, which is readily available to us. The Word is more than merely facts that inform, it is truth that transforms. God offers the Word to renovate our soul and cause us to grow spiritually.

### The Path

If we do not value the Word, the Devil will come and snatch it away.

### Rocky Ground

If we do not meditate on the Word, it will not take deep root. When troubles come (and they will), we will quickly fall away.

### Thorns

If we have divided loyalties, the other things we love of this world will choke out the Word and we will not grow spiritually.

### Good Ground

If we welcome the Word, that is, receive it, value it, meditate on it, and put it into practice, we will experience profound spiritual growth.

### We have Spiritual Ears

Our soul has the ability to hear the voice of God. God will speak to us by sharing His thoughts. In order to hear God, we must give time to listen.

**Your Notes:** *What is God saying to you.*

## **Application** *for Abundant Living*



### **Stepping Stones**

Whenever God speaks to us, it is a stepping stone. God is charting out the course of our spiritual development. Whenever God speaks, we should find a way to retain his Word, whether it be a paper notebook or electronic journal. This will help us remember what God has said and chart the course of our progress.

The Bible has a key role to play in this process. God speaks to us most clearly through the Scriptures. The Bible helps us determine whether or not what we think we are hearing is truly coming from God. God never contradicts what he has already spoken.

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## **Questions** *for Group Discussion*

Have you ever heard God speak to you?

Do you have a method for retaining what you are learning?

How well do you know the Bible?

What do you think God is saying to you now?

If you follow after God's Word, where do you think it will lead you?