

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENT: **Mark 1-5**

SCRIPTURE Mark 4:1-20

OBSERVATION

Jesus often taught in parables. These stories using ordinary, culturally relevant, everyday themes helped people better understand his point. In the Parable of the Sower a farmer sows seeds. Some fell on the path [v. 4, 15], some on rocky places [v. 5-6, 16-17], some among thorns [v. 7, 18-19], and some landed on good soil [v. 8, 20].

Jesus tells us the seed is the word of God and where it lands in your life will yield specific results.

APPLICATION

So - where have you landed? Are you on the path? Have you heard about Jesus, had your curiosity peaked, and even felt a moment of unconditional love and acceptance -- only to dismiss it when you heard that small voice saying none of it matters -- that you don't matter? That it doesn't apply to you? This is a lie straight from the Father of Lies. Don't believe him.

Are you in a rocky place? Did you at one time enjoy attending church, maybe hanging out in a life group with like-minded friends learning more about Jesus, only to be distracted by troubles and pull back? You're in good company. So come back. God's mercies are new every morning. I love perpetual do-overs!

Maybe you're among the thorns. I think this is the place most of us land. Twenty-four hour news, constant information, working to pay for the toys and things we think we need -- or just groceries and the mortgage, or longing for work in this current horrible unemployment climate are all worries that keep us from focusing on the promises of God. Call on Jesus right now -- he is standing by waiting to comfort you.

Or maybe you are on the good soil now. You get it, you want to share it, and you willingly do so. Keep it up.

The good news is you don't have to remain where you initially landed. Beginning this moment you can move to the good soil. Talk to the Lord, read the Bible, attend a weekend service. Call a friend. Get back in the game. And if you are planted firmly in good soil, find someone who needs a lift, come alongside him, and help to lighten his load.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you so much for loving me. I know my days won't be perfect, but I also know that if I seek you first, you will provide. I know your word is power and that near you is the best place for me to be, regardless of my circumstances. *Amen.*

S.O.A.P. Entry Author: Kelly Ellis