

In Mark 4:1-34 Jesus engages in 3 acts of teaching as He presents the Parable of the Soils.

I. Jesus teaches the Parable of the Soils.

A. Jesus' audience (v. 1).

B. Jesus' vehicle for teaching (v. 2).

C. Jesus' parable.

1. One sower (v. 3).

2. One seed (v. 4a).

3. Four soils (vs. 4b-8).

D. Jesus' conclusion (v. 9).

II. Jesus teaches the reason for all parables.

A. Those on the inside both seek to understand and are granted understanding (vs. 10-11).

B. Those on the outside neither seek to understand nor are granted understanding (v. 12).

C. You must understand this parable in order to understand all parables (v. 13).

III. Jesus explains the Parable of the Soils.

A. The Sower is Jesus (implied).

B. The seed is the word of God (v. 14).

C. The soils are people who hear the word but receive it differently.

1. The hard-hearted ones (v. 15).

2. The shallow-rooted ones (vs. 16-17).

3. The worldly-fruitless ones (vs. 18-19).

4. The fruit-bearing ones (v. 20).