

We are all a work in progress. Life is full of transitions. Many of us do some of them well, but we are less than thrilled when it comes to the necessity of change. We may begin with a strong, "No! Not now. It will never happen!" We may resist the notion that we need to reconsider our beliefs and behavior. How does this look when it comes to our own spiritual journey?

Shallow

Jesus often spoke in parables. Why? What did He intend to teach His disciples? What does He have in store for us in them? What should we glean from these inspired teaching tools in the hands of the Master Teacher? Pay close attention today. Let Him speak to the matter of your witness for Christ to people in various places on their spiritual continuum.

Distracted

Unresponsive

Absorbed

## Personal Application and Interaction

1. What insights did you get from the message about why Jesus spoke in parables?
2. How did this parable help his disciples understand why the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus?
3. How did the parable of the sower, the seed and the soil help His followers begin to understand the distinction between the messianic kingdom and the kingdom of God?
4. Consider your own spiritual journey against the backdrop of this parable: how does it help you appreciate that journey of faith?
5. How were you encouraged to respond to the people in your life who resemble these different soil conditions?
6. What can we do to prepare the soil [the people] around us for the seed of the Gospel?
7. What inspires you to sow the seed of the Word of God broadly among the people in your world?



## Prepare Yourself

*Mark 4:1-20*

Pastor John  
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