



New Year's Sermon: Who Are You Becoming?

Date: Sunday, January 7th, 2024

Jesus was not looking for the quantity of the onlookers in the crowds, but the _____ of followers in the crowds.

“Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” When He was alone, the Twelve and the others around Him asked Him about the parables. He told them, “The secret of the Kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”” (Mark 4:3-12)

How we respond to The Truth, will reveal where we really are with God and how far our lives are from Him, because God is _____.

“Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?” (Mark 4:13)

Different Conditions of The Human Heart To The Truth of God:

1. _____ heart

“The farmer sows the Word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the Word that was sown in them.” (Mark 4:14-15)

2. _____ heart

“Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the Word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away.” (Mark 4:16-17)



3. _____ heart

“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the Word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.” (Mark 4:18-19)

4. _____ heart

“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the Word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.” (Mark 4:20)

“...fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

This Year We Get To Decide...

- 1. If we are going to have a hard heart***
- 2. If we are going to have a superficial heart***
- 3. If we are going to have a divided heart***
- 4. If we are going to have a fruitful heart***

Bottom Line: *We get to decide what kind of soil our heart has when it comes to God, we get to decide what kind of person we become, and we get to decide where God will be in our life in this upcoming year.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. What kind of a person are you becoming and where are you going when it comes to your life?*
- 2. Based on the parable, what kind of soil does your heart have?*
- 3. Knowing the Truth of all this, what is your next step with God? What will that practically look like for you in 2024?*

Songs used in service: Trust It All (North Point Worship), Jesus (Mike Marshall), I Surrender (Taya Gaukrodger & Matt Crocker), Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone) (Phil King)

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Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?