“Discipleship Matters”

What ground are you?

Mark 4: 1-20

What is a Parable?

- In Greek it means “to set alongside”, to compare.
- “Using an illustration from daily life to teach basic truth.

“Earthy stories with heavenly meanings”

Why use parables?

- Mark 4: v.11 Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:
- 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Why Jesus taught using Parables?

- So that the mystery of the Kingdom will only be discovered by those with genuine faith.

So…What ground are you?

The “Way-side” ground –
the hardened heart

- V. 4 some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

Jesus explained – v. 15 “when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.”

The “Stony” ground –
the shallow heart

- And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

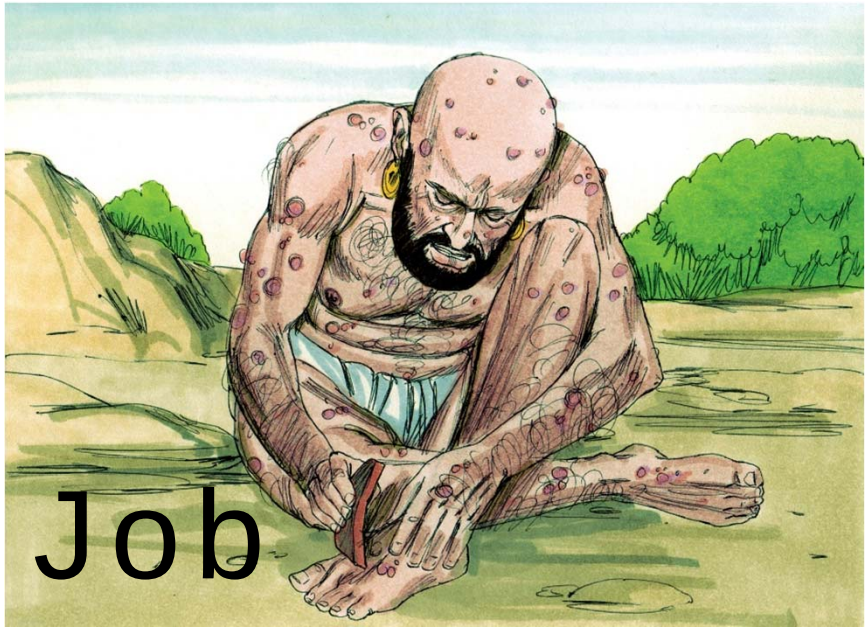
“Stony” ground – the shallow heart

- Jesus explained –“ v.16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;
- 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

Quiz time: Who are they?

"…thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

…Though He slay me,
yet will I trust in Him."



Who are they?

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

And they stoned *him*, calling upon God, saying Lord Jesus receive my spirit.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that Jesus is the Son of God.

For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.

The "Thorny" ground
– the crowded heart

- [7] And some fell among thorns,

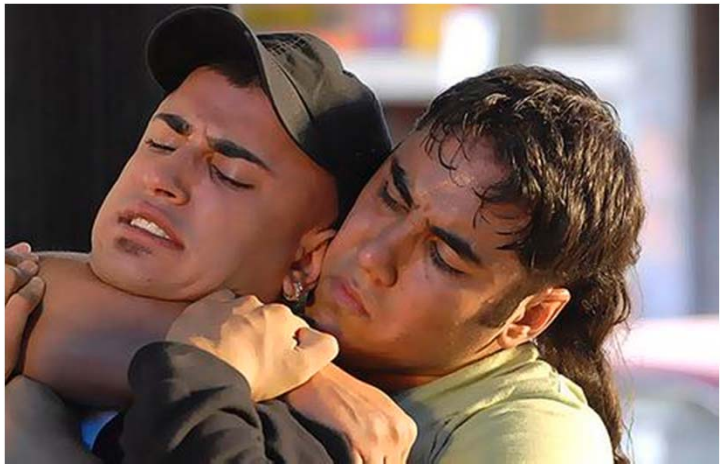
and the thorns grew up, and choked it,

and it yielded no fruit.

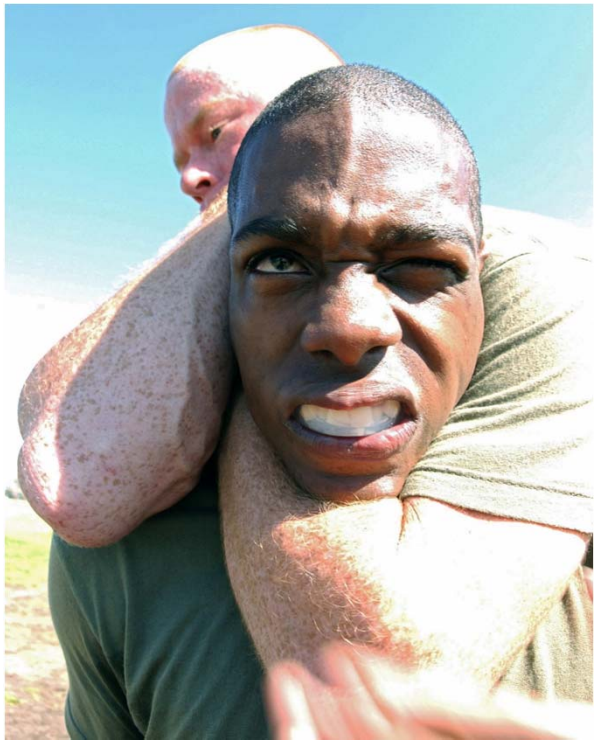
- **Jesus explained** – v. 18 "And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,
- [19] And the <u>cares</u> of this world, and the deceitfulness of <u>riches</u>, and the <u>lusts</u> of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Choked....

By The cares of the world.



By The deceitfulness of riches



By The lust of other things

The Good ground – good and honest heart

- [8] And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.
- **Jesus explained** – v. 20 “And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”

What Ground are you?
Is your heart
hardened?
Shallow?
Crowded? Or
Good and honest
for the Word of God?

Let us pray!