

Scripture - Mark 4:1-20 Parable of the Sower
Part 4 - The One Story: Is the Bible True for Everybody?
(Metanarrative)

This fall for our Bible study we're asking - what is the Bible? So we're asking all these fun, hard questions about the Bible that the Bible asks and answers about itself. The question today is about the one story of the Bible: Is the Bible true for everybody?

Problem: *The Bible may work for Christians but it doesn't work for everybody who's ever lived. So don't say it's for everybody.*

[Parable of the Sower] Let's jump in and read the parable of the sower in Mark 4:1-20.

Parables are like riddles. What do you do when you can't get the answer to a riddle? You have to go to the riddler and ask them to give you the answer. The parable: Jesus says the seed that the sower sows is the word of God. The sower is Jesus. The four different kinds of soils are the different ways people respond to Jesus and his word.

[1st Response] What's the 1st response some people have to Jesus and his Word?
V.4: the hard path. This is like trying to plant a seed on your street. This is a heart that's as hard as a road. These are people who hear the gospel and their immediate response is: *"I can't believe people still believe this ridiculous stuff. It's offensive. It's just myths."* Or they say, *"Yeah yeah I've heard all this before, not for me."* And Jesus says the bird that eats the seed off the road is like the devil who comes to people like this and agrees they can ignore God's word.

[2nd Response] What's the 2nd response some people have to Jesus and his Word?
V.7: the rocky soil. Seed goes in, little sprout springs up but then the sun comes and scorches the little sprout because it's got no roots. The rocky soil are people who seem to

be happy with Jesus until suffering comes and then they stop believing the Bible.

[3rd Response] What's the 3rd response some people have to Jesus and his Word?
V.5: the soil with weeds. The seed starts growing but weeds start growing up with the seed and grow around it and start choking it and end up killing the plant. These are people who really love the world more than Jesus and listen to the world more than the Bible.

[4th Response] What's the fourth response some people have to Jesus and his Word?
V.8: the good soil. The seed falls on good soil and produces tons of fruit. This is the one FAITHFUL response to Jesus. Jesus says in v.20 that these are people who hear Jesus, and believe in him and live like it!

Back to the Problem: *The Bible may work for you but it doesn't work for everybody who's ever lived.*

Is the Bible true? Yes
So is it true for everybody? Yes
BUT, does that mean everybody will believe it is true? No, but just because some people don't believe the Bible is true doesn't mean it's not still true.

[Metanarrative] Whose story is the Bible?
It's God's story. It's Jesus' story. And, it's our story. The Bible is the metanarrative - the divine story and human story woven together and the threads are intertwined and cannot be pulled apart.

[Historia] This parable is about receiving the Word of God which is all about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus; and receiving this Word for salvation. Will you and I receive it and accept it like good soil today and let it have its way with us?