

FOLLOWING THE PATH OF JESUS

A Harmony Of the Gospels

A Daily Devotional Study Guide - Book 2



Week 15

“The Unpardonable Sin”

Study: Matthew 12:30-33, Mark 3:28-30

Reading: -----

Memory: 1 John 1:2

While playing sports, I am very competitive and I often play to win. I don't just like playing for the fun of the game because most of my enjoyment is found in the competition. I have had to learn to temper my competitive spirit because I often play games with people who aren't that good at the games that we play. When I play competitively, I would rather play with fewer players who know how to play than with players who often get in the way when they are on my team. When players on my team don't know how to play, they often hurt the cause of the team rather than help it.

Today, we will see how Jesus desires us to be on His side, working for His cause. As a believer, you are on God's team but if you are not living how God desires you to live, you get in the way of what God wants to accomplish.

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus finished describing how a house that was divided could not stand, He rebuked the Pharisees by declaring that those who are not on His side were against Him. Jesus left no room for neutral ground in the matter of belief. There was no way for the religious leaders to ride the fence when it came to Jesus. Either they believed He was the Messiah or they rejected that He was the Messiah (Matthew 12:30).

Jesus then went on to talk about what many have called “the unpardonable sin.” This name has caused more problems and doubts in the minds of people than Scripture intended. The term “unpardonable sin” has caused many to wonder, “Have I committed this sin?” This is faulty thinking because Jesus did not intend to declare that once you commit this one sin, you would be doomed forever. His purpose was to declare that the rejection of God and the clear evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus was the one sin that would damn a person to eternity apart from God.

In his statement to the Pharisees, Jesus declared that all sins could be

forgiven by God except one. Even if someone spoke evil of Jesus, that could be forgiven, but to speak blasphemy about the Holy Spirit, that could not be forgiven. The Pharisees had seen the work of Jesus and it could be clearly seen that the things He did were not done in the power of man. By saying they could speak blasphemy of the Son and still be forgiven, Jesus understood that His words alone were not enough to prove that He was the Son of God. But, the works that He did, which were all supernatural and were for the good of men, could no way be attributed to the power of the devil. By declaring that Jesus was of the devil, they were going far beyond the act of unbelief. Those who did this had hardened their hearts in such a way that there was no point of return for them. There was nothing else that could be done to convince them that Jesus was the Christ, and as a result, they would not have their sins forgiven and would be sent to an eternity apart from God (Matthew 12:31-33, Mark 3:28-30).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Have you ever been afraid that you will commit a sin that will not be forgiven? The truth is that God forgives all sin. The “unpardonable sin” as described in this passage here can probably not be “committed” today since it seems to be a direct statement to the Pharisees and their rejection of the Messiah. Though many might disagree with my opinion on this, the truth is that this is not something that should cause worry in your mind. When you stand before God, you will be judged on whether or not you believed in Jesus Christ. Your choice to accept or reject His offer of salvation will be the basis of your eternal destiny.

What I do want you to learn from your study today is that you need to make sure that you are helping and not hurting the cause of Christ. Jesus declared that those who were not gathering with Him were actually scattering. This was farming language and pictured the gathering together of the wheat into a bundle for harvest. Many laborers would work together in the same field doing this and they were all working for the same goal. Jesus was describing how you are either helping His cause or hurting His cause. Though this was directed at the Pharisees and their rejection of Him, it can also apply to you at times as well. When you stray from God and start living for yourself, you can find yourself working against God rather than working with Him. Take time to examine every area of your life today to make sure that you are working together with Him.

Matthew 12

What had the religious leaders accused Jesus of (vs 24)?

What reasoning did Jesus give them as to how he could not be casting out demons by the power of demons (vs 25-29)?

What did Jesus say about those who were not in agreement with Him (vs 30)?

What does this reveal about true followers of Jesus?

****There are many people who choose to be a part of a religion that names the name of Christ, but they do not live out the instructions that He gives. They think they are on the side of Jesus, but since they choose not to obey Him and follow Him, they are not on His side.*

Why do you think Jesus said that we are scattering if we are not gathering with Him (vs 30)?

What sins did Jesus say would be forgiven (vs 31)?

What sin did Jesus say would not be forgiven (vs 31)?

Why do you think most people refer to this as the “unpardonable sin?”

What can be forgiven (vs 32)?

What can’t be forgiven (vs 32)?

Why do you think Jesus said this?

****This was discussed in the commentary section. It is something that commentators and theologians have debated for many years and have given many different explanations for. In the most literal understanding, it comes from attributing the great working of the Holy Spirit, seen through the miracles of Jesus, to demonic power.*

Should you be scared of committing this sin? Explain.

“Seeking a Sign”

Study: Matthew 12:38-42

Reading: Jonah 3:1-4:11

Memory: 1 John 1:2

When watching a video of the idol worship that still takes place in the land of India, I was struck with the reality of the privileged position I have been placed in. For some reason, God chose to place me in a Christian home where I could hear the truth and know who the One True God was from a young age. As I think back to how I almost squandered this privilege by choosing to follow the world, I am humbled and thankful that God continued to soften my heart and encouraged me to surrender my life to Him.

Today, we are going to see how the Pharisees were in a privileged position to hear the teachings of Jesus and will read about the many wonders He performed, yet they chose to reject Jesus. We will read how we can be like the Pharisees and choose not to take advantage of all the blessings that we have been given..

What Does the Bible Say?

After Jesus finished declaring that what He did was by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Pharisees responded by asking Jesus to show them a sign that He was the Messiah. This is a very interesting request because He had been showing them sign after sign by the healings and exorcisms that He had performed. John the Baptist had also pointed to Jesus as a sign that He was a fulfillment of the Old Testament, but that was not enough for the Pharisees to believe. Jesus was not going to give into their request, but instead rebuked them for their failure to believe in what He had already done. He called them an “adulterous generation.” which described how they had committed spiritual adultery. The spiritual adultery of the Pharisees was different than that of their forefathers, but was still evil. The Israelites in the days of the prophets and kings had sought after the idols of the world, but the Pharisees sought after the idol of their own self-righteousness. They thought they were much better than their forefathers, but didn’t realize that they were actually in the same boat (vs 38-39).

Jesus told them that the only sign that they would be given was the sign of Jonah. He explained this by describing how Jonah was in the belly of a whale for three days and three nights, Jesus declared that He would be in the grave for three days until He rose again. This verse has caused much confusion and argument over what day Jesus actually died. Many use this verse to say that Jesus could not have died on a Friday because He had been in the grave three full days and three full nights. This seems to be a good argument, but the gospels tell us that Jesus died on the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath (Mt 27:62, Mr 15:42, Lk 23:54, Jn 19:31). By saying three days and three nights, Jesus was just using Jewish terminology to emphasize that it would be three days until He rose again. It does not have to be taken as fully literal but was meant to be a figurative statement. It is a simple language term that has caused much unintended conflicts over the years (vs 40).

The city of Nineveh repented of their sin after they heard the message of Jonah, but the Pharisees hardened their hearts and entrenched themselves deeper in their sins after they had seen and heard Jesus. Jesus described how this would cause greater judgment for the Pharisees because they should have been some of the first ones to accept Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus was greater than any who had come before Him and He was doing great signs and wonders right before their eyes, yet they missed it. His wisdom was much greater than Solomon’s and people came from all over the world to hear Solomon’s wisdom. Yet, the religious leaders closed their ears to the greatest teacher of all time (vs 41-42).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize what a great privilege you have? You live in a nation where you are free to worship God and live in a time where there are countless Christian books and study guides to help you along in your spiritual walk. You might have even grown up in a Christian home and have the opportunity to listen to Christian radio 24/7. You are privileged, but the Pharisees were also privileged. They had a chance to hear Jesus Himself speak to them, yet they chose not to listen. You are not immune to the same problem that many of the Pharisees had. It is easy to allow your privilege to swell into pride and to allow that pride to cause you to stop listening to God. Take advantage of all that you have been given and make sure you are continually soaking up the truth of the Word of God in your life.

What did the religious leaders ask Jesus for (vs 38)?

Why do you think they asked for this?

How do you think many people still desire this today?

****It is very easy to want things to happen on the outside to stir up emotion and become tangible examples of the power of God. Though there is nothing wrong with wanting to see God work, Jesus desired that we hear His words and accept them by faith.*

Who did Jesus say sought for a sign (vs 39)?

Why do you think that Jesus called them this?

****An adulterer was a symbol of a person who said they were committed to one person, yet chose to give themselves to someone or something else.*

What sign did Jesus say would be given (vs 39)?

What did Jesus say would happen to Him (vs 40)?

Who did Jesus say would rise up and judge the religious leaders (vs 41)?

Do you think He meant that they would literally rise from the dead and become actual judges?

Why did Jesus declare that something greater than Jonah was there (vs 41)?

Who did Jesus say would come from the South (vs 42)?

What was this a reference to?

What point do you think that Jesus was making with this illustration?

****It is pretty obvious that Jesus was not being literal with these statements. He was making a point about how the Son of God was in their midst, but they chose not to believe.*

“Worse Than At First”

Study: Matthew 12:43-45, Luke 11:24-26

Reading: Colossians 3:1-17

Memory: 1 John 1:2

One of the things that kept me from making many spiritual decisions for Christ while at summer camp or at revival meetings was watching the many who did make decisions slip back into sin. I wasn't just going to make a quick, emotional decision, but if I was going to follow Christ, I was going to do it all the way. Though I grew up in a Christian home, I didn't make that choice until my freshman year of college, but I am extremely grateful I did. Sadly, many of my friends who made those emotional decision didn't stick with them and some don't have any form of godliness in their lives today. In my general observation, I noticed that many people made a choice to remove sin, but often failed to replace it with righteousness.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus rebuked the generation He was teaching to because they failed to put on true righteousness. Many of them straightened things up in their lives, but that work was only temporary because they didn't put on the faith that was needed to bring about lasting change.

What Does the Bible Say?

The Pharisees were corrupt people with lots of problems before Jesus came along. Once Jesus came, He challenged the Pharisees, causing some of them to make outward changes. Not only did the Pharisees straighten up, but many people who heard Jesus and saw the miracles that He did also made some changes in their lives. Jesus knew that many of these changes were temporary and would not last. He spoke to these changes, describing how things would get much worse after He was gone than they were before He came.

Jesus illustrated this by a simple parable about a demon who was cast out of a person. Jesus had cast many demons out of people during His ministry, but that didn't mean the people were always better off for it. Once the demon was gone, those who had the demons cast out needed to replace their empty hearts with faith and trust in God. If not, the demons

would return to the person and find an open invitation back into a person's life. The demon would not only return, but would find other demons to come and join him, causing the person to be worse off than he was before the demon had been cast out.

Sadly, many people ended up having worse problems after Jesus came than before He came. This was not at all the fault of Jesus but was the fault of those who failed to fill their lives with the truth. It wasn't enough to see the great things and experience the many wonders of Jesus. It was very easy for many to hop on the emotional or experiential train with all the excitement that surrounded Jesus. The people needed to make a choice whether they were going to commit themselves to Him and follow Him or only go part way. Those who did not completely surrender would find themselves in worse shape and condition than those who had never seen or heard Jesus to begin with.

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you fully following God, or are you setting yourself up for future problems? Are you only removing sin from your life, or are you replacing that sin with righteousness? Understanding the need to not only remove sin from your life but to replace it with righteousness is vital. For instance, people who have been convicted by the Holy Spirit for watching something they should not watch should not just stop watching. What they need to do is replace the ungodly images with things that exalt God. If the images are only removed and not replaced, the majority of times, that person will find himself back into the same ungodly viewing habits, though often on a much deeper level. Make sure that you are not setting yourself up for great disaster caused by a failure to replace your evil with good.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the warnings given in His Word.*
- * *Ask God to show you areas where you need to take off sin and put on righteousness.*
- * *Praise God because He alone brings fulfillment to life.*

Thought for the day

***As with some of the other teachings of Jesus, we see that Matthew and Luke place them in slightly different contexts. This could be because Jesus taught them more than once, which is highly likely, and could also be because the writers did not think chronologically. Instead, they often tried to group similar thoughts or ideas. The context of Luke 11 reveals that Jesus had just rebuked the religious leaders for accusing Him of casting out demons by the power of demons. Matthew places it after Jesus had just finished declaring that He wouldn't give the religious leaders a special sign.

Luke 11

What did Jesus say happens when an unclean spirit has been cast out of a person (vs 24)?

****It is interesting to note that Jesus did not call this a demon, but an "unclean spirit." The term "spirit" is also translated "demon" in other places. It is the same term used for the "Holy Spirit." The "unclean" simply differentiates between the Holy Spirit and a demon.*

Why do you think the demon went through "waterless places" (vs 24)?

****This is a word picture that describes something desolate where a person would not want to live. Basically, the demon traveled around and couldn't find a good place to settle.*

What did the demon decide to do (vs 25)?

What did he find when he returned (vs 25)?

Why do you think Jesus said it was "swept" and "put in order" (vs 25)?

What did the demon decide to do (vs 26)?

What was the conclusion of this story (vs 26)?

What point do you think Jesus was making?

Why do you think it is important not just to remove sin but to replace it with righteousness?

“Mother and Brothers”

Study: Matthew 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35, Luke 8:19-21

Reading: Titus 3:1-7, Romans 3

Memory: 1 John 1:2

When my wife and I were in Greece, our tour took us on a visit to the grave of Philip II of Macedon. Philip was the father of Alexander the Great and was really the founder of the Greek empire. His grave was found untouched, which meant that all of the valuables that he had been buried with were on display in a museum. Next to his burial chamber, there was a similar but smaller chamber that the archeologists believe was built for a son who had died before reaching adulthood. In it were some of the same great treasures that Philip had in his tomb. As we toured that grave area and many other places of ancient history, I was amazed by the privilege that many children were born into when they were born into royal families. It wasn't their character or choices that made them wealthy but the family they were born into.

Today, we are going to see that the kingdom of God is different than human kingdoms. You are not naturally born into the family of God. The family you were born into or your position on earth has nothing to do with being part of God's family.

What Does the Bible Say?

Matthew, Mark and Luke all place this event in different passages so there is little background to know what was taking place or where Jesus was when this event happened. The passages describe how Mary and some of the brothers of Jesus came to see Him. When Jesus was told that they were wanting to talk to Him, Jesus responded by asking who His mother and brothers were. Jesus was not being rude to his own family but wanted to point out the fact that they were not more special than anyone else in the crowd. Jesus declared that His mother and brothers were those who were following Him – those who were His disciples. Those who chose to listen to the Word of God and obey it were the ones that He was close with. They were the ones who were part of the family of God, which was much more important to Jesus than being part of His physical family. This doesn't mean that Mary did not believe and we

don't know for sure about his brothers at this time, but Jesus put them on the same level as everyone else. God's kingdom has nothing to do with where you were born or who you know. As the saying goes, "The ground is level at the foot of the cross." All men are sinners and born with a need for the Savior. Though some may live better lives morally, this does not make them any closer to God. All men have to humbly admit they are sinners and trust in His grace in order to be part of His family (Mt 12:46-50, Mk 3:31-35, Lk 8:19-21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think that you are better than someone else? Do you think that others are better than you are? Pride is an awful thing that affects all people in many different ways. You must realize that you are no better or no worse than anyone else. God does not accept you or like you more or less based on your merit. He knows your sinful state and chooses to love you just the way you are. There are no favorites in His kingdom and your family status or financial status has nothing to do with your relationship with God. Jesus revealed that His mother or brothers were not better than any other human that had ever and will ever exist. They needed to humble themselves and believe, just as you do today. Mary was a simple, humble servant who God chose to use to accomplish His plan. The brothers of Jesus didn't choose to be his brothers, they were placed there by God. Again, this all drives home the point that merit before God is not earned and is not a position one is born into. The only way to God is to hear the truth of Him and believe that truth. This is how you get to know Him and this is how you grow in Him. This is how you become part of His family.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for choosing to show His grace to you.*
- * *Ask God to show you any areas of pride in your life.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of grace.*

Thought for the day

Matthew 12

What was Jesus doing (vs 46)?

Who had come to see Him (vs 46)?

****Little is known about the brothers of Jesus. Matthew 13:55 and Mark 6:3 state that Jesus had four brothers. Many scholars believe that the book of James was written by the brother of Jesus. Very little is known about the brothers of Jesus. In fact, very little is known about Mary the mother of Jesus, though many religions have exalted her to the point of being a diety.*

What did Mary and her sons want to do (vs 46)?

****We are not told why they wanted to speak with Him. We had seen an earlier instance where they were attempting to convince Him to stop fighting against the religious leaders of the day, but we are unclear of their purpose in this passage.*

What did Jesus say in reply to His family's request to speak to Him (vs 48)?

Why do you think Jesus said this?

What action did Jesus do (vs 49)?

Who did He say was His mother and brothers (vs 49-50)?

Why is doing the will of God a prerequisite for being part of the family of Jesus (vs 50)?

Why do you think that Jesus said this?

In many places in Scripture, we are told that it is faith that allows us to become children of God. Here we are told that to be part of God's family we need to do His will. How do you think both faith and doing the will of God can co-exist at the same time?

How do these work together?

“The Hard Ground”

Study: Matthew 13:1-4, 18-19, Mark 4:1-4, 14-15, Luke 8:4-5, 11-12

Reading: Psalm 119:65-80

Memory: 1 John 1:2

For almost 10 years, our family lived in a house that had farm fields right next to us. Living in the middle of a farm field did have its advantages and disadvantages. I loved the open spaces and watching the crops grow, but I was not a fan of the time of year when the manure gets spread on the field to prepare it for planting. When the spreader wagon would come out, we would try to close the windows, but since the field was only 20 feet away from our house, there was not much we could do to avoid the smell. I did realize that the smell was necessary in order for the fertilizer to be worked into the ground to prepare the soil for proper growing, but I never learned to enjoy it.

Today, we are going to read how Jesus gave a parable regarding farming and the soil that was receiving the seed of the Word of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

At times, there were larger crowds that followed Jesus or came to hear Him speak. We are not told why this was, but natural life teaches us that there are periods of time that people are generally less busy than they are at other times. The passage today relates one of these occasions and describes how a very large crowd had gathered to hear Jesus teach. This crowd was so large that He decided to get in a boat and teach from the shore so He would have room to teach without the crowd pressing in on Him. There are many hills surrounding the Sea of Galilee which would have made a natural amphitheater so that the great crowd could all hear what Jesus would have to say (Mt 13:1-3, Mk 4:1-2, Lk 8:4).

Jesus began to speak a parable that has often been called the “Parable of the Sower and the Seed,” but in actuality, this could be described as the “Parable of the Soils.” The first place the sower sowed the seed was on the path. In Bible days, they did not have huge fields like we do today. Many of the fields would have been smaller with foot paths between them. These paths would be hardened by the many people who had walked on them and the soil would not be receptive to any seeds.

The seeds sat on top of the soil which allowed the birds to swoop down and pick up all the seeds rendering them useless (Mt 13:4, Mk 4:3-4, Lk 8:5).

The rest of the parable was then given by Jesus, followed by an explanation of what the parable meant. We will skip down to the explanation of this first part of the parable and do the same for the rest of the parables. The seed that was sown illustrated the Word of God that was being spread into the hearts of people. The hard ground illustrated the hard hearts of the people who were not open and receptive to hearing the Word of God and it would not take root in their hearts. The birds represented Satan and how he would swoop down and pluck the seed out of their hearts, allowing no chance for the seeds to take root. These people do not end up believing and are not saved from their sins (Mt 13:18-19, Mk 8:14-15, Lk 8:11-12).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have a hard heart? Most likely, if you are reading this, you are not in this category of the unsaved, but you could still find yourself having a hard heart. Your heart was most likely softened when you first heard and believed, but it is easy to let your heart harden over time. It is easy to allow your heart to reject the Word of God, causing your heart to be less receptive, which in turn produces less and less fruit in your life. There are numerous ways that you can allow your heart to be hardened, but it most often occurs through times of spiritual drought and busyness of life. When you are not drinking from the Word of God on a regular basis, you will become dry and allow your heart to start to harden. When the busyness of life takes over, you will also be trampled by the people in this life, often leading to a harder heart. Take time today to evaluate your heart to see if it has become hardened to the things of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for His Word which produces fruit in your life.
- * Ask God to help soften your heart to allow you to receive His Word.
- * Praise God for the power of His Word in your life.

Thought for the day

Mark 4

Where was Jesus teaching (vs 1)?

What happened while Jesus was teaching (vs 1)?

Why do you think Jesus attracted such large crowds?

What did Jesus decide to do (vs 1)?

Why do you think He did this?

How was Jesus teaching (vs 2)?

Why do you think He used parables?

What is a parable?

What scenario did Jesus present (vs 3)?

Where did the first seed that Jesus mentioned fall (vs 4)?

What happened to this seed (vs 4)?

What did Jesus say the seed represented (vs 14)?

Who do you think the sower is?

****This is a general reference to anyone who spreads the Word of God.*

What is the seed that fell on the path compared to (vs 15)?

How do you think Satan takes away the word that is sown?

How have you experienced this when you have tried to sow the seeds of the Gospel into the life of another?

What can you do to help soften this soil?

How can you make sure your heart is soften to God's Word?

“The Rocky Soil”

Study: Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21, Mark 4:5-6, 16-17, Luke 8:6-7, 13

Reading: Philippians 3:15-21, I John 2:12-27

Memory: 1 John 1:2

The parable that we will look at today is one that kept coming to my mind over and over again when I was preparing a large portion of our lawn for seeding grass. Much of what I raked was soft, clean topsoil, but there were certain parts that were quite rocky and hard. I wanted to get the job done and didn't want to take time to remove the rocks, but I kept thinking about this parable over and over again and it caused me to take the extra time to remove many of the rocks from the ground, knowing that the grass would have a much better chance of surviving if the rocks were removed.

Today, we are going to see the second type of soil that Jesus used to illustrate the hearts of men.

What Does the Bible Say?

The second type of soil mentioned by Jesus was the rocky soil. This type of soil was very common in the land of Israel because Israel is a place that is full of rocks. There was enough soil that allowed the seed to start to grow, but the rocks hindered the roots from getting too deep and the plants were not able to get the nutrients needed to cause the seeds to continue to grow. Though these plants initially sprang up, they did not last through the hot sun since they did not have the root system to provide the water they needed. The end result was that the plants withered and were soon dead (Mt 13:5-6, Mk 4:5-6, Lk 8:6-7).

Jesus described how the rocky soil illustrated the hearts of men who hear the Word of God and receive it with great joy. They get excited about God and the things of God and give the appearance that they are growing. Though Jesus doesn't say, most likely, these are the people with many problems in their lives and they realize that Jesus can solve their problems. They jump on the Christian band wagon and get emotionally excited about Him and start to follow some of the biblical teaching. This lasts for a time, but when the trials of life come their way and it doesn't seem like the biblical principles are working in their lives,

they go back to the ways of the world. They wither and die because their roots have not drawn energy from the proper source. They wanted the benefits of God, without getting their strength and energy from God Himself. This is most likely the same type of person described as having the demon cast out of them. Normally, the condition after their brief stint with Christianity is much worse than before they chose to follow Christ (Mt 7:43-45). The saddest part about these plants is that they withered and died, just as the spiritual seed does in many lives (Mt 13:20-21, Mk 4:5-6, 16-17, Lk 8:13).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you allowing the roots of the Word of God to go deep down into your heart and firmly establish a root system? Are you drawing your strength and energy from the Holy Spirit because your roots are deep into the Word of God? Though this parable was mainly given to reveal that many people temporarily follow God, it can also be true of real believers who get stuck in spiritual shallowness. The point was not for those who received the Word to learn to grow in the rocks, but, in order to truly grow, the rocks needed to be removed. Did you notice that Jesus said the people receive the Word with joy? This gives the idea that their Christianity was based on emotion rather than based on truth. The way to really remove the rocks out of the soil of your heart and to make it more fertile is to remove the hindrances that stop you from digging deep into the Word of God. These could be feelings, time constraints, wrong priorities or numerous other things. Ask God today to show you if there are rocks in the soil of your heart that are keeping you from really growing in Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the warnings He gives you in His Word.*
- * *Ask God to help you remove the “rocks” from your heart.*
- * *Praise God because He is the only Rock that you can count on.*

Thought for the day

Mark 4

Where did the first seed fall (vs 4)?

What did the seed represent (vs 14)?

Where did the second seed fall (vs 5)?

What was the area lacking (vs 5)?

What happened with this seed (vs 5)?

Why was it pointed out that the soil was bad (vs 5)?

What happened when the hot sun fell on the young plant (vs 6)?

Why is it pointed out that the plant had no root (vs 6)?

What was the end result (vs 6)?

What did Jesus say the rocky ground was like (vs 16)?

How did they receive the Word (vs 16)?

What does this reveal about the fact that emotions are not enough for a great spiritual life?

What do these people not have (vs 16)?

Why is having roots that start to go deep into God's Word very important?

How long did they endure (vs 16)?

****No set time frame is given. Could be a few days to a few months or even a few years.*

What happens when difficulties come because of God's Word (vs 16)?

How do you think a person can remove the "rocks" from their heart?

Memory Verses

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—