

The Gospel of Mark
The Hearts of Men
Mark 4:1-20

We have heard that a way to a man's heart is through his stomach, meaning that if someone is a good enough cook, they can win everything from a man's loyalty, to his companionship, to his affection. Biologically, though, the way to a man's heart is through his chest. The latter is objective and right every time. The former just sounds so much more romantic, but it is subjective and is subject to individual taste.

1. Some hearts are stubborn.
2. Some hearts are shallow.
3. Some hearts are strangled.
4. Some hearts are surrendered.

The Bible says that the gospel (the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ) is the power of God. The Bible says that scripture is the Word of God. The Bible says that Jesus is the Son of God. Every one of these statements is significant to the point that what we do with these words will ultimately determine our eternal destination. But for us to embrace these statements as true and in order for them to make the difference in our lives that they are intended to make, we need to receive them with surrendered hearts, hearts that are willing to trust in the finished work of Christ and His cross, hearts that are willing to live in the ongoing presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

For further consideration:

Which name for this parable do you think fits better with the focus and theme of the story: 1) the parable of the sower, or 2) the parable of the soils? How did Jesus' parables give His disciples more understanding without giving any benefit to those who rejected Him? DO you think it was unfair for Jesus to obscure His teaching from those who rejected Him by using parables? Whose fault was it ultimately that they did not understand? Why is this parable foundational to understanding other parables? DO you think that there is one kind of soil that is prevalent in our culture? Is there a particular way we should present the Word of God that might make people more receptive?