

# THE CALL FOR DISCIPLES

## Maureen Stanek

### Parable of the Soils

Mark 4: 1-20, Luke 8:4-15, Matthew 13:1-23 (NAS)

#### Mark 4:4-8

Again, He began to teach by the sea. And such a very large multitude gathered to Him that He got into a boat on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, "Listen to this!

Behold, the sower went out to sow; as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. And when the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much."

#### Three Groups of People that Day by the Sea:

1. Multitudes
2. Followers
3. Disciples

#### Levels of Commitment:

- a. How close am I? How close am I willing to be with Jesus? How close am I willing to be to you?
- b. Am I in the multitudes (the crowd), a follower or a disciple? Will I live my life out in the crowds or up close?

#### What does the enemy use?

1. Affliction (pressure)- Makes you feel you restricted or are without options
2. Persecution (trying to suppress their convictions)
3. Worries, anxiety (cares) of the world
4. Deceitfulness of wealth
5. Desires for other things (good or bad)

What does good soil look like? I want to be good soil. It's all about the heart.

#### Biblical Examples:

Mary - Luke 1:38  
Isaiah - Isaiah 6:8  
Moses - Exodus 20:21  
Peter - Luke 5:2-7  
Elijah - I Kings 17:1

#### What Does A Disciple Look Like?

Values the words of Jesus  
Bears Fruit  
Leaves some things behind  
Listens to Jesus  
Keeps the commandment of Love  
Stays together with others  
Fishers of People

### Reflect:

Is there one thought or phrase that stood out to you most in today's session? If so, why?

Read Mark 4 several times. What is the Holy Spirit speaking to you? What changes is He asking you to make in your life?

### Prayer:

Lord, show us the true condition of our hearts. Reveal to us the areas where thorns or rocks tried to come and pull us away from You and from one another. We repent of hardness of heart and ask that You would soften them once again. If we found ourselves hiding out in the crowd, we ask that You would help us be brave once again and come back into the light... that we truly would be your disciples. Open our eyes each day that we may truly see what it means to be called a disciple of Christ. In Jesus Name. Amen

### My Notes: