

## **Freedom: It's time to PLOW**

**Mark 4:2-9,13-20 (NIV)** *He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." ...Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."*

God wants to plant His Miracle Seed inside your heart and mind in order to bring about the fruit of freedom in your life...but the seed must find good soil in order for the fruit to be produced...what kind of soil best represents your heart right now?

- **Hard ground:** hearts that reject God's Word all together...NO FRUIT
  
- **Shallow, rocky ground:** hearts that receive the Word of God, but refuse to open up and go deep...NO FRUIT
  
- **Thorny ground:** hearts that receive the Word of God, but don't have time to really do the work...NO FRUIT
  
- **Good ground:** hearts that receive the Word of God, allowing it to grow deep roots and not allowing anything to choke it out...MUCH FRUIT

**Main Point: The Fruits of Freedom will be produced in me when I prepare the soil of my heart to receive His Word.**

**The Key: PLOW your heart!**

**Pray** - Confess your need for God and repent of anything that is hindering you from fully trusting Him.

**Listen** - Ask God to show you any area of your heart that needs to be plowed up...and ask Him to plant a life-changing word (seed) in you.

**Obey** - Do whatever God tells you to do...change your actions and thinking, meditate on His Word and reject the lies of the enemy.

**Wow Factor** - This is God's part...He will bring about the fruits of freedom as you submit your heart fully to this process.

**Hosea 10:12 (NIV)** *Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.*