

- 1 Mark 4:1-12
Nature of parables
Sermon someone preached on the Good Samaritan-- "going down not going up"
This parable given three times in Word so must be important for our lives

Central fact: Seed is not sole determining factor in its effectiveness.
- 2 Need not be disheartened if labor a lifetime with no apparent results
Minister who went to town in N. PA and taught Bible classes for 3 years
with no apparent results. Years later the fruit was seen in lives of
a young man and woman who attended his classes.
- 3 The Sower
The Seed
Sermon must give way of salvation to be a Christian sermon
- 4 Word not only means of salvation but of growth
The Soil
The people to whom we speak
Our own hearts as we spread the word to others is part of the soil
- 5 Sermon will affect heart of the preacher if given in power of Spirit

Four types of soil
Be in various soils at different times in life
Existence of a personal devil who is ready to snatch seed away
- 6 Rocky soil. Resolutions at new years time. No perseverance
- 7 Thorny soil

Some graduates in secular work may be doing more Christian work than those
in so-called fully time Christian service
No need for discouragement if faithfully sow the good seed of Word