

# CHECK YOURSELF



## PART I

Pastor Epting's  
*Sermon Notes*  
Sunday, August 16, 2020

*“And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.” Mark 4:10-20 KJV*

The word of God is awesome and should be taken very personal. We should study the word of God for ourselves.

- Not first to teach
- Not first to preach
- Not first to correct others
- But for ourselves

We often think that we have to do/show ourselves as something that we are not.

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV*

**The man** - those who receive the scriptures / word of God

**PREACHING BRINGS PEOPLE OUT OF THE WORLD  
BUT TEACHING/LEARNING BRINGS THE WORLD OUT OF PEOPLE**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. As Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom, He did not always find a receptive audience...
  - a. Some listened only to find reasons to accuse Him – Mark 3:2
  - b. Jesus therefore began to teach publicly in parables - Mark 4:1-2
  - c. In private, He would explain the parables to His disciples - Mark 4:10,33-34
  - d. The main reason: many had become “hard of hearing” - Mark 4:11-12; cf. Matthew 13:10-15
2. One of the most well-known parables illustrates the problem Jesus faced...
  - a. Commonly known as “The Parable Of The Sower”
  - b. But probably more accurately described as “The Parable Of The Four Soils”
  - c. Told by Jesus to illustrate different reactions to the gospel message

Mark’s account of the parable is given in Mark 4:1-20 (*please read*). The significance of this parable is stated in Mark 4:13. In this study, we direct our attention to Jesus’ explanation of the four soils. Jesus is teaching the crowd and they didn’t understand it, then the disciples got with him and questioned the parable themselves for lack of understanding.

*How do you know if you are receiving the Word of God?*

*How does the Word of God affect you?*

*What are you doing in your faith that you weren’t doing 3-5 years ago?*