## Heart of the Matter

The Sower and the Soils - Mark 4:1-20 (p. 839)

Jesus begins His parables with a call to listen. In the Parable of the Sower, He shows that God's Word is powerful and life-giving, but its impact depends on the condition of our heart. Today, we're invited to examine whether our hearts are truly receptive to Jesus and the transforming power of God's Word.

**The Context** (4:1-2) The Parable of the Soils (4:3-9) Listen! (3) The Soils (4-8) Hear! (9) The Purpose of Parables (4:10-12) **The Parable Explained** (4:13-20) A Hard Heart: Along the Path (15) A Vulnerable Heart: On Rocky Ground (16-17) A Distracted Heart: Among the Thorns (18-19)

A Receptive Heart: On Good Soil (20)