e. The **Shallow Soil** Person isn’t Saved - No Word (V. 15c).

**2. The Rocky Soil (Vs. 16-17) -** *16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 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.*

 a. The **Preaching** of the Word (V. 16).

(1) They **Hear** the Word (V. 16a).

 (2) They’re **Happy** about the Word (V. 16b).

 b. The **Persecution** because of the Word (V. 17).

 (1) They are **Afraid** of the World (V. 17a).

 (2) They **Abandon** the Word (V. 17b).

 c. The **Rocky Soil** Person isn’t Saved - Fall Away (Vs. 16-17).

**3. The Thorny Soil (Vs. 18-19) -** *18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 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.*

 a. They **Hear** the Word (V. 18).

 b. They’re **Hindered** by the World (V. 19).

 (1) The **Deceitfulness** of Wealth (V. 19a).

 (2) The **Desires** for Worldly Things (V. 19b).

 c. The **Thorny Soil** Person isn’t Saved - Unfruitful (Vs. 18-19).

**4. The Fertile Soil (V. 20) -** *20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown." (NIV)*

 a. He **Hears** the Word (V. 20a).

 b. He Takes **Heed** to the Word (V. 20b).

 c. He Produces a **Harvest** - 30, 60, or 100 times what was sown (V. 20c).

 d. The **Fertile Soil** Person is Saved (V. 20).

**III. CLOSE -** What kind of soil or heart do you have? Jesus is a heart fixer. Why not start the New Year off right by letting Jesus give you a new heart and a new start? During the invitation, you can give your life to Christ today. If you do, welcome to your new family!

# *RISING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

***2800 E. 36th Street***

#### Tucson, AZ 85713

## *Sermon Notes*

## *January 4, 2015*

***What Kind of Heart Do You Have?***

***Mark 4:1-20***

**Sermon Notes:** [www.risingstarbaptist.org](http://www.risingstarbaptist.org)

**Podcasting:** [www.allewisministries.org](http://www.allewisministries.org)

***Vision: A Local Church with a Global Reach***

***Motto: One Mind, One Heartbeat, One Direction.***

## *Rev. Amos L. Lewis*

***Senior Pastor***

**What Kind of Heart Do You Have?**

**Mark 4:1-20**

**I. INTRODUCTION -** In order for anyone to do anything effective their heart has to be in it. We are at our best when our head, heart and hands are fully engaged. The heart is the command and control center of a person’s life. We are told to guard our hearts with all diligence because out of it comes the issues of life. Therefore, above everything else, God wants our heart (Rev. 3:20). He wants to use us to accomplish His work on earth. Therefore, everything starts and ends with the heart. God wants to do a major work in our heart so He can use us for the up-building of His kingdom. You see God is a heart fixer and a mind regulator. In other words, God has to fix us before He can use us (Rom. 12:1-2). He starts with the inside and eventually what God is doing on the inside will be manifested on the outside. What kind of heart do you have? Anybody got heart trouble? If you need a new heart, you’re in the right place at the right time for a heart transplant. God wants to give you a new heart and a new start (2 Cor. 5:17).

**II. EXPOSITION OF THE TEXT -** Parable - A short, simple story designed to communicate a spiritual truth, religious principle, or moral lesson; a figure of speech in which truth is illustrated by a comparison or example drawn from everyday experiences. A parable is often no more than an extended metaphor or simile, using figurative language in the form of a story to illustrate a particular truth. The Greek word for parable literally means "a laying by the side of" or "a casting alongside," thus "a comparison or likeness." In a parable something is placed alongside something else, in order that one may throw light on the other. A familiar custom or incident is used to illustrate some truth less familiar. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright © 1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers). In other words, a parable is an earthly saying with a heavenly meaning.

The Pareto Principle - 20% of your people will give you 80% of your results. Jesus was saying you get one solid worker/giver out of every four people.

 **A. The Information in the Parable (Vs. 1-9)**.

**1. The Shallow Soil (Vs. 1-4).** *1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.*

**2. The Rocky Soil (Vs. 5-6).** *5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.*

**3. The Thorny Soil (V. 7).** *7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.*

**4. The Fertile Soil (Vs. 8-9).** *8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times." 9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

 **B. The Prophet Isaiah and the Parables (Vs. 10-12).** *10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that, "'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'"*

 **C. The Interpretation of the Parable (Vs. 13-20).**

**1. The Shallow Soil (Vs. 13-15)** *13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 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.*

 a. The **Sower** is the Teacher or Preacher (V. 14a).

 b. The **Seed** is the Word of God (V. 14b).

 c. The **Soil** is a person’s heart (V. 15a).

 d. The **Stealer** of the Word is Satan (V. 15b).