Pastor Faith Schierholt

For Sunday, October 11th
"The Authority that Restores"

Mark 4:1-20 – *NIV*

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. 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. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the
plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up,
grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

9 Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

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!'"

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. 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. 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. 20 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."

Takeaway: Good soil isn't about effort but about opening your heart so God's Word can land fresh again.

Questions:
1. Where have you become familiar with Scripture but no longer open to it?
2. Which "soil" describes your heart in this season of life, and why?
3. What worries, disappointments, or habits might be choking the Word in you?
4. What would it look like for you to let God's Word land fresh again this week?

Sermon: https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20261011.mp3
Service Video: https://youtu.be/F-WZ7OWqUvs
Alternate Service Video: https://wpcwestlake.livecontrol.tv/f2d5b90e