



**The Sower, Seeds, and Soils
(Mark 4:1-20)**



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Modus Operandi

Noun

1. A method of operating or functioning
2. A person' manner of working

The Reading of Today's Scripture: Mark 4:1-20

An outline of the *pericope*

- Mark's introduction: Jesus teaches in parables (vv. 1-2)(vv. 1-34)
- The parable of the sower, seeds, and soils (vv. 3-9)
- The bridge: parables for those who do not understand (vv. 10-12)
- The explanation: what each of the four soils represents (vv. 13-20)

Let Us Pray



Introduction: The Real Estate mantra-- location, location, location



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I. Avoid the Path of Least Resistance

- Satan runs interference (C.S. Lewis: *The Screwtape Letters*)
- Human hostility to the Gospel (Jeremiah 6:10b)

Human hostility to God's Word

“Behold, the word of the Lord is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it”

--Jeremiah 6:10b

I. Avoid the Path of Least Resistance

- Satan runs interference
- Human hostility to the Gospel (Jeremiah 6:10b)
- Those receptive but not exposed to the Word (Romans 10:14-15)

The Need to Sow Seeds Along the Path

- ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

--Romans 10:14-15 (ESV)

I. Avoid the Path of Least Resistance

- Satan runs interference
- Human hostility to the Gospel (Jeremiah 6:10b)
- Those receptive but not exposed to the Word (Romans 10:14-15)
- **Location matters: getting to the starting line**

II. Grow Deeper

- The Giddiness of the Gospel
- Modern persecutions: External
- Modern persecutions: Internal

- **Location matters: those around and in you**

III. Be Aware of Snares

- Temptations in the Land of Affluence
- The Slog of Everyday Responsibilities
- Prayer as protection

- **Location matters: materialism and lifestyle**

IV. Celebrate the Harvest

- Antigo Silt Loam

The State Soil of Wisconsin: Antigo Silt Loam

- Believe it or not, we even have a state soil! It is called Antigo silt-loam and was selected in 1983 to help remind us of our responsibility to take care of our soil resources. People argued that soil, a natural resource that took 10,000 years to produce, not only is essential to Wisconsin's economy, but also is the foundation of life itself. Silt loam is a productive, silty soil originating from the glaciers and enriched by organic matter from prehistoric forests. This soil is found mostly in Wisconsin, stretching in patches across the north central part of the state. It is named after the city of Antigo. This soil supports dairying, potato growing, and timber.

IV. Celebrate the Harvest

- Antigo Silt Loam
- Tilling, nurturing, pruning
- God exceeds human capabilities (10 fold)

- **Location matters: God's Word and a supportive Christian community**

Takeaways:

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1. Where are you located socially, psychologically, materially, and spiritually?
2. How can you change or improve your conditions for spiritual growth?

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