**Elder Berry Ross May 2, 2021**

**One Seed, Many Hearts**

Mark 4:1-20

**Key Truth:** God has given every human a heart, the question is how you choose to use it concerning Him.

1. All hearts are created equal.

 A. It is the seat of our emotions. Eph. 4:21-24

 B. It is the dwelling place of our motives. Job 38:36

 C. It is the center of our deepest decision making.

 1 Kings 3:9

2. What does the seed have to do with my heart?

 A. The seed comes from God. John 1:1-2

 B. The seed is a trailblazer for the soul. Romans 10:14-16

 C. Agreement with the seed leads to our salvation.

 Romans 10:9-11

3. Seed cultivation is a matter of the heart.

 A. The callous heart makes it difficult to receive the

 seed. Proverbs 4:23

 B. The superficial heart looks good but is lacking a

 foundation.

 C. The crammed heart is filled with many unfruitful

 desires. Matthew 7:13-14

 D. The fertile heart though not perfect is receptive to

 follow and reproduce. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:19-23

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Choose you this day to surrender your heart to Jesus today.Thank God for freely giving you His Word and entrusting you with it. Ask Him to multiply it in your life, bearing fruit as you remain open to His call and commands in your life.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

When it comes to growing plants today, how successful are you—I have a green thumb, plants meet me and die, or something in between?

Read Mark 4:1-9: What did Jesus describe in this particular parable? Is this a parable about the sower, the seeds, or the soil? Why?

We heard this weekend that the Bible makes it clear we have some responsibility for the condition of our hearts because the heart of the hearer determines the fruit of the message. How could the following passages help us continue to cultivate a heart that is responsive to God and his Word?

Ephesians 4:1-3

Luke 18:9-14

Read Mark 4:13-20: Based on Jesus’ interpretation, what character traits would be representative of each kind of soil?

Which of the soils produce similar results? What do these results portray?

Which soil is unique and how so?

James 1:19-25: Why is it not enough to just hear the Word of God? What does putting it into practice reveal about our commitment to Him?

Read John 15:8-11: How can believers bring glory to God, according to this passage?

With what kind of love did Jesus love His disciples?

What was the motivation behind Jesus’ words in these verses?

What is the biggest thorn choking out the Word of God in your life today? How do you need to respond?