**HE SPOKE IN PARABLES**

**Sermon Based Discussion (April 2, 2017)**

**The Gospel of Mark**

**WARM UP**

1. Think of a movie that you and a friend both saw, but had different responses. What were the responses, and what caused them to be different?

*Different people can have different responses to a shared experience. The reason for the difference isn’t in the movie, story, or whatever else they’re experiencing together. The difference is in those who are experiencing it. In the same way, our response to Jesus’ teachings are a result of our state when we approach him.*

*In this session, we consider how we might respond to Jesus’ teaching…*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Mark 4:1-12)**

1. What do the sower, seed, and soil types represent in the parable?
2. What does Jesus say is the difference between those on the inside and “those outside” (vv. 11-12)?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Why does Jesus want to puzzle his listeners with parables?
2. This passage comments on the different ways people respond to what Jesus and the Bible teaches. What are some ways people today respond to what they hear or read in the Bible?
3. What are some reasons why people today might not have a productive response to what the Bible teaches?
4. What does it take for someone who is one of the unproductive soils to become good soil?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. Which of the soils do you find yourself identifying more with nowadays?
2. When you don’t agree with or understand something in the Bible, what do you typically do about it?

**APPLICATION**

1. In the message, Vernon mentioned a few ways to get the most out of Jesus’ teachings. What is something practical you can invest in to getting more out of the Bible?