

## Seek "First"

*Jesus came proclaiming a brand "new" message. That message was a message of the Kingdom of God. It was a message that rattled the religious of the day and still does!! He came to establish the father's kingdom. Where? First in the hearts of man, his body, the church. That's the "born again" experience Secondly, the kingdom was to expand and grow via the message of believers. Thirdly, by the return of Jesus to establish a "physical" kingdom of which he, Jesus would rule and reign with us. He did not come to establish religion. Thank the Lord. He came to re-establish dominion, that which was lost in the garden. Note: the word Kingdom is used in the gospels 119 times.*

**Read: Matthew 6:33, Matthew 6:10-13**

**Read: Mark 4:1-20, The parable of the soils**

**1. What does the soil represent?**

*The soil in this passage represents the heart. There were 4 different types. Warren Wiersbe describes them this way:*

- a. The hard heart (vs 4,15)*
- b. The shallow heart (vs 5-6, 16-17)*
- c. The crowded heart (vs 7, 18-19)*
- d. The fruitful heart (vs 8, 20)*

**Please read these scriptures regarding our hearts.**

**Jeremiah 17:9-10, Proverbs 4:23, Ezekiel 36:26-27, 1 Kings 8:39**

*God transforms the heart by his Spirit.*

**2. The Kingdom is in our hearts. The word is the seed and the sower is the one who brings the word. The condition of our hearts determines our response to the word! God deals with the heart of man.**

**Read Romans 10:9-10 (note: confess and believe)**

**Colossians 2:11-12**

*Note the cutting away of our sinful nature. Circumcision of our hearts. The word goes into our hearts and transforms it. It is then able to receive the word and produce fruit. This is the transformation of the mind.*

**Read Romans 12:2**

**3. Look at the 4 conditions of the soil in point 1. Take some time to discuss each soil and how we all could have each condition at some time in our lives. Look at each one and discuss how we can change that in our lives. The goal is to move to thirty, sixty and hundredfold return.**

*Please include in your prayer time closing with the Lord's prayer.*

