

**November 22, 2009**  
**Mark 4:1-9**

*The Good News: A Sermon Series through the Gospel of Mark*  
**The Good News of Great Harvest**  
Rev. John Sowers

There's Good News for the world . . .



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(List some key points from the sermon that you would say are good news.)

*But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*

Matthew 13:23

Sermon Illustration: Ted Williams, one of the all-time best hitters in baseball, failed to hit the ball 6 out of 10 times at bat. Can you think of other examples of people we define as successes who have failure mixed into their stories?

**READ** Mark 4:1-9

This parable describes the crowd gathered around Jesus; as hearers of the Word there are 3 out of 4 failures.

How did John's interpretation of this parable in this way give you new insight into its meaning? What evidence do you see that a crowd gathered today can be described in the same way?

**Being Good Soil**

If the seed is the Word of God, what is the soil? What does good soil look like?

What convictions and habits do you have that keep you being good soil? What evidence of a good crop being harvested in your life have you seen in the past week?

**Being a Seed Scatterer**

John said Jesus seems to be defining "true stewardship" as scattering seeds recklessly and broadly.

What does this mean to you?

How do you make sense of this in comparison with our typical concept of "good stewardship" as giving more and conserving resources?

How does this challenge your thinking or encourage you toward something new?

Is there someplace you feel you have been cautious in living the Word of God? Why? How does this idea of "sowing recklessly" give you freedom or challenge you to be less cautious in this specific circumstance?

What do you think an incredible harvest looks like to God? What is the basis for your answer?

Does this picture of an incredible harvest, from God's perspective, effect how and what kind of seeds you are sowing?

**PRAY TOGETHER!**

Ask God to help you be good soil and the courage to scatter seeds recklessly and broadly. Put your trust in God has the one responsible for the harvest.