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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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Of Dirt and Deeds

Mark 4:1-20

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passage

Mark 4:8-9 (ESV) — *8 And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.* **9** And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Central Thought: We get in on the Good news when press through our own doubts, and the distractions and the deceptions of the world around us, and press into and prioritize the Word of God in Christ and our response to him.

Parable: A story intended to instruct and disrupt, moving us to a deeper level of understanding and a greater level of committed (faithful) action.

Questions...

❖ Is God speaking?

Psalm 19:1-4 (ESV) — *1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. 4 Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...*

John 1:1-5 (ESV) — *1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

❖ Are we listening?

Mark 4:9 (ESV) — *9* And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT) — *9* The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war."

❖ What should we expect?

Mark 4:8 (The Message) — *8* Some fell on good earth and came up with a flourish, producing a harvest exceeding his wildest dreams.

Matthew 5:13-16 (ESV) — *13* "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. **14** "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.