

## **The Gospel of Mark Message Series**

Discussion Guide based on the morning message on January 24th, 2010

*Heart Conditions: Mark 4:1-20*

### **Morning Message – *Heart Conditions: Mark 4:1-20***

1. Stone Heart
2. Shallow Heart
3. Split Heart
4. Successful Heart

### **Leading the Session Helps/Discussion Questions**

- Make announcements and have a prayer time. (before Choir Members arrive)
- ICE BREAKERS
- What's one of the most frequent types of commercials we see nowadays? (prescription drugs) What is the irony of the side effects to some of the medicines advertised? (side effects seem worse than original ailment) What is one popular organ that those advertisements focus on? (heart) What is the parallel in the physical condition of the heart related to our health and the spiritual condition of the heart and our health?
  - In the parable what ...
    - Does the secret of the Kingdom represent?
    - Does the seed represent?
    - Does Jesus point out about this parable that is special compared to other parables?
    - How do we approach the study of a parable with regard to its content?

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Verse 12 seems to be a difficult passage to understand. What should be our approach to difficult passages? (The Bible is correct and we need to adjust our understanding. Interpret the Bible in light of other passages.) What was Jesus saying in verse 12 then? (There are some who will hear and see but who will never accept the message.)
- What is the meaning of the seed that fell on the rocky places? Characterize a person who has a stone heart?
- What is the danger in being too busy in life? Can God interrupt you?
- What is the meaning of the seed that fell among the thorns? Is it possible to walk two paths? How is it possible that things that are good can get in the way and become detrimental to the condition of our hearts?
- What is the point of the parable?

### **Application**

- What will you use to evaluate your heart condition today? On a regular basis?
- Contemplate the potential of the harvest Jesus could have by working in and through you in the coming days. Focus on verse 20.