

**STUDIES IN MARK**  
**Lesson Five: Becoming Good Soil**

*Warm-up: What are some difficulties encountered when trying to reach family members with the gospel of Christ? What are some advantages?*

1. In choosing the Twelve, what significant fact is mentioned by Luke that is not mentioned by Mark? (Mk. 3:13-19 cf. Lk. 6:12-16).
2. What special problems did Jesus face from family and loved ones as He carried out His earthly ministry? How did He meet these challenges? (Mk. 3:20-21, 31-35).
3. What charge did the scribes from Jerusalem level against Jesus. What was it about this accusation that amounted to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (Mk. 3:22-30).
4. What do the three basic elements (sower, seed, and soil) represent in the Parable of the Sower and Soils? (Mk. 4:1-25).
5. How can we keep from getting discouraged when the seed we sow falls in unproductive soil? (1 Cor. 3:6-7).
6. What words best describe people who are like the soil along the pathway? (Mk. 4:4, 15).
7. How can people be like rocky soil? (Mk. 4:5-6, 16-17).
8. What causes thorny soil to be unproductive? (Mk. 4:7, 18-19).
9. How does good soil respond to God's word? (Mk. 4:20; Mt. 13:23; Lk. 8:15 cf. Mk. 4:24-25; Jas. 1:21-22).
10. What does the Parable of the Growing Seed reveal about the growth of the kingdom? (Mk. 4:26-29).
11. What does the Parable of the Mustard Seed teach us about the growth of the kingdom? (Mk. 4:30-32).