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A STONY HEART

In Mark chapter 4 we learn the parable of the four kinds of soil. There is the wayside, the stony, the thorny, and the good ground. I want to speak to you about the stony ground today.

In Mark 4:16-17 it says, ***“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness: 17 and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.”***

These people have no spiritual roots because they have such a stony heart that the word of God cannot penetrate it for the seed to grow. Offenses come and they lose the word that God planted. The only solution to this is to not have a stony heart. A stony heart is only changed through allowing it to be broken. In Psalms 34:18 it says, ***“the LORD is nigh (near) unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*** Again in Psalms 51:17 which is David’s psalm of repentance it says, ***“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”***

In our brokenness, God comes to us in love and causes the seed of his word to grow in our hearts. In our brokenness God ministers his grace to us. Our stony, hard heart becomes pliable in God’s hands, and is receptive to his Word.

We should never get so hard hearted that we cannot hear God speak to us through his word. When we are in that condition we are easily offended and cannot produce any fruit.

If you find yourself in that condition, then ask God to forgive you, and allow him to minister to you through His word. He will, because as Psalms 51:17 says, ***“thou wilt not despise.”*** If God brought change in David, he can also bring change in you. Then you will become fruitful.

David became very fruitful. Through his descendants came Jesus, the one that heals the broken heart and plants the word of God in it.