





A CARPENTER, A CROSS & A CROWN

A Series through the life of Christ





Mark 4

1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:

Mark 4

3 “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Mark 4

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

9 Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Matthew 13

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.



Matthew 13:14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

15 For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears, and they have
closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear
with their ears, understand with their hearts and
turn, and I would heal them.’ [Isaiah 6:9,10]

➤ Why did Jesus speak in parables?

1. So that most would not understand
2. So only a certain few would understand
3. So the gospel would go to the gentiles
4. As an act of mercy so that those who have heard the message many times and yet rejected it might not be guilty of yet another opportunity to hear

The Sower

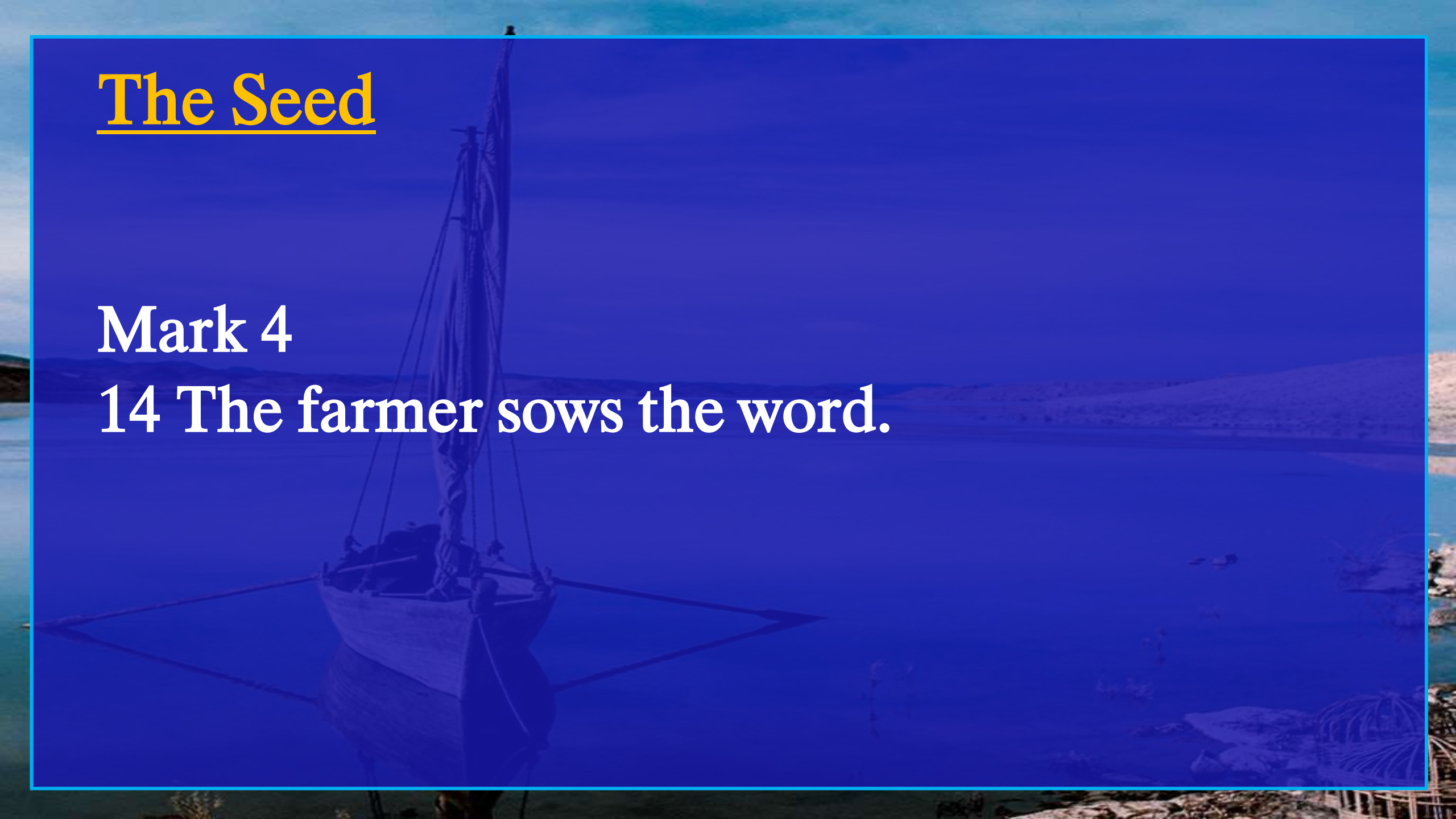
Mark 4

3 “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path,

The Seed

Mark 4

14 The farmer sows the word.



Mark 4

26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Acts

4:4 But many who heard the word believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

6:7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly

8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

11:1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

12:24 But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.

13:5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues

Acts

13:44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord;

13:49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

14:21 They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples.

16:14 The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

16:32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house.

19:20 In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Soils

Mark 4

13 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?”

14 The farmer sows the word.

Hard Path Soil

Mark 4

15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Shallow Soil

Mark 4

16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

- Those who want the things God can give but not God
- Those who did not count the cost
- Those who had a repentless conversion
- Those who had an emotional experience

Thorny Soil

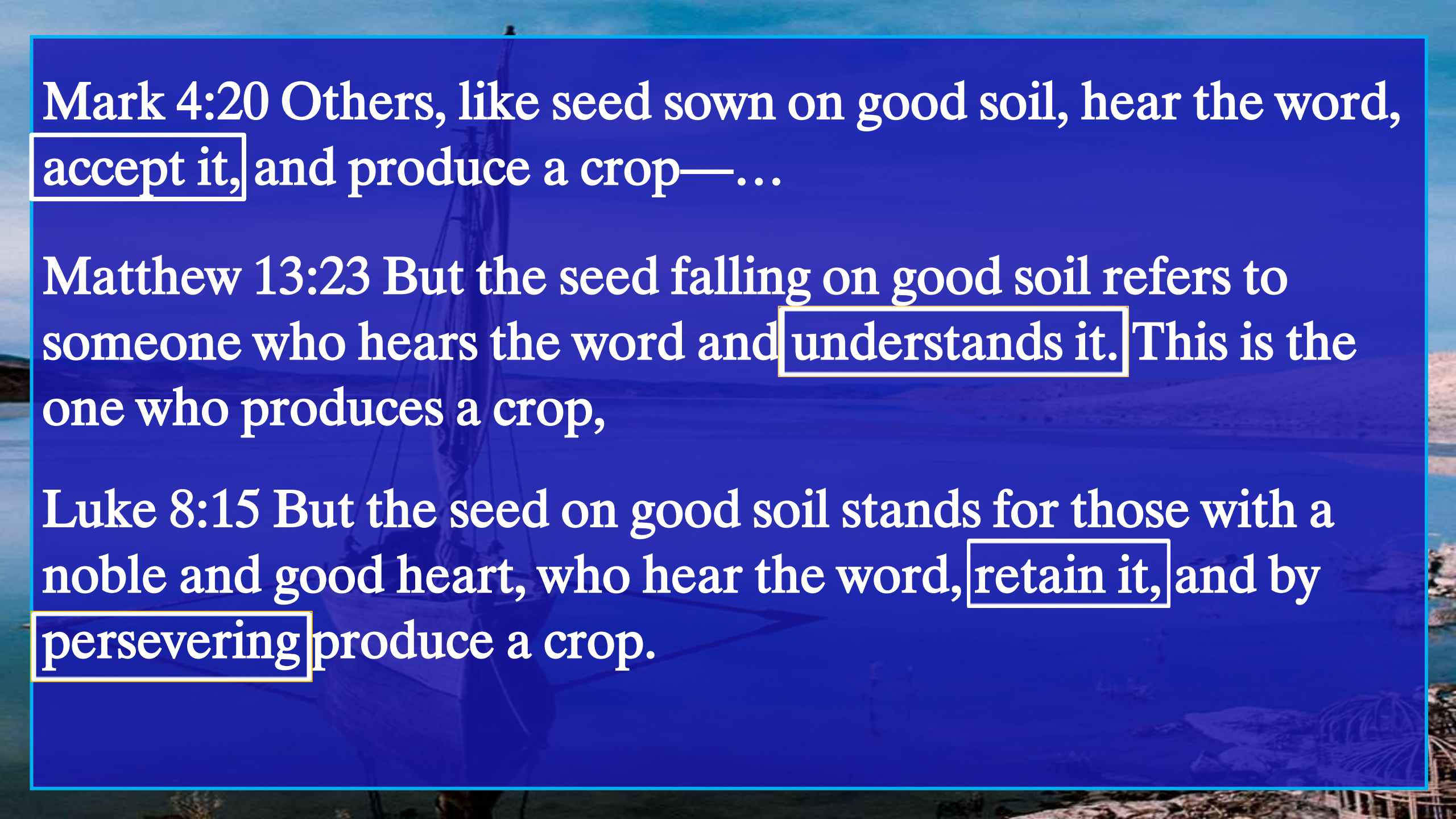
Mark 4

18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Good Soil

Mark 4

20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”



Mark 4:20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, **accept it,** and produce a crop—...

Matthew 13:23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and **understands it.** This is the one who produces a crop,

Luke 8:15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, **retain it,** and by **persevering** produce a crop.



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