

# God Thoughts

How long is an idea usually bouncing around in your mind before you do something about it? What's it take to kick start your engine and really get you cracking on something new? Once you decide you are going to do something, how's your follow through?

We are all learning to live with our own special blend of procrastination, distraction, enthusiasm, people-pleasing, workaholism, and limitations. We could call that special blend of soil our greatest strength, or our greatest weakness. In truth, it's probably both.

What happens to the God thoughts that bounce around in our minds? What happens to the God seeds that fall into the soil of who we are?

## **Read Mark 4:1-20**

Listening is love. We know this. God's biggest complaint throughout all of Scripture is simply that people aren't listening to him. Over 1500 times the Bible calls us to "*listen*" and "*hear*"! The parable of the sower is all about listening.

Most people aren't one kind of soil. Rather they have a unique blend of all of the soils going on at any given point in their life. In some ways we are like hard packed ground. The God thoughts come, but we aren't ready for any new ideas. We already know what we think. We know the way we want things to be. We already have our life figured out.

Sometimes the "birds of life" snatch the God thoughts out of our mind before we can absorb them. We aren't sure where the God thoughts went, they just went away. Other times the God thoughts make it inside of us. We start to get excited about new possibilities. But then life happens; work, stress, problems, conflict, and trouble. Before we know it, we are just trying to survive, and the God thoughts disappear.

Sometimes our God thoughts actually begin to make a difference. We begin to change, we start new endeavors, we begin new relationships, until...everything else becomes more important: jobs, bills, responsibilities, consumerism, entertainment, and ego. Somewhere in the back of our mind we still want the God thoughts to grow, but there isn't any room for them right now. We tell ourselves, "*Maybe later...*" But later never comes.

**3-5 minutes:** Find your life in this picture. Remember, most people aren't one kind of soil. Rather they are a unique blend of all the soils. In what way does this picture depict what has happened to your God thoughts over the years? Reflect on the good soil that is a part of who you are. Reflect on the God thoughts that have grown into something, and the ones that haven't. Reflect on the generosity of the sower who loves you with your unique combination of soils, enough to still sow God thoughts into every part of who you are. In what way is the sower telling you that listening is love.

**Open Reflections:** Share about your experience of listening to God through this picture.