I. Mark 4:14-20

- A. How does faith come?
 - 1. By Hearing and Hearing the Word of God (*Romans 10:17*)
 - 2. Faith does not come by HAVING HEARD...
 - Remember, Faith is always in the present tense..."NOW" (Now Faith is...)
 - This is why there are so many unanswered prayers, so many questions among Christians...In Order to receive, you must believe NOW...not tomorrow...and the Seed of God's Word must be in your heart today!
- B. Satan understands the law of the seed
 - 1. If he can't steal it, persecute it, or choke it...He will make sure there are seeds of compromise to replace it or drown it completely out of your life.
 - 2. Every word is a seed....If faith comes by hearing, then how does the opposite of faith (unbelief) come? By hearing the seed of compromise (from the enemy). (We are surrounded by this).
 - 3. Take heed to what you hear (Mark 4:24).

II. Protect Your Garden

A. Proverbs 4:20-23

- 1. Attend...Incline your *ear*...let them not depart from your *eyes...*
- 2. Keep Your Heart with all diligence...Protect your garden through what you **Hear** and what you **See**.

B. Genesis 3:1-2, vs. 6

- 1. Eve heard the voice of a stranger...
- 2. Eve saw that the tree was good for food...
- 3. The first mistake Christians make is they communicate with the enemy! (If you are sitting in the presence of compromised communication, you are a part of it, whether you are speaking or not!)
- 4. II Peter 2:7-8 Lot's soul was corrupted by what he surrounded himself with (What he saw and what he heard took him from the righteousness of Abraham to become a wicked man). (I Corinthians 15:33 / AMPLIFIED "Bad company corrupts good morals.")
- C. How Can I protect myself?
 - 1. Choose your friends and your family (Harper Lee with the old saying in "To Kill a Mockingbird" apparently didn't read what Jesus said in *Mark 3:33-35*!)
 - 2. Keep the Word First (Meditate Day and Night).
 - 3. Rebuke any compromising seed (out loud) immediately (this is uncommon)
 - Matthew 16:23 "Jesus turned and rebuked Peter..."
 - Cast down imaginations and bring into captivity every thought...how? By speaking the written word of God... "IT is Written!"