

*“Day of the Christian Martyr”*

***Unless a Grain of  
Wheat Dies***

John 12:20-26

Mark. 4:1-20







*What kind of faith is it that enables someone to faithfully endure harassment, persecution, alienation, even torture and death? What does that kind of faith look like?*



# **Parable #1: The Grain that Must Die**

**(John 12:20-26)**





# Parable #1: The Grain that Must Die

(John 12:20-26)



No harvest if the seed is not sown  
in the ground... and “dies”!



# Parable #1: The Grain that Must Die

(John 12:20-26)



No harvest if the seed is not sown  
in the ground... and “dies”!

Not *just* about Jesus!  
(“*Whoever...*”)



# Parable #1: The Grain that Must Die

(John 12:20-26)



No harvest if the seed is not sown  
in the ground... and “dies”!

Not *just* about Jesus!  
 (“*Whoever...*”)

About ***dying to self!***



# **Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils**

## **(Mark 4:1-20)**





# Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



3 of the 4 results of the sown seed  
at one point ***appear to have  
signs of life!***



## Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



3 of the 4 results of the sown seed  
at one point ***appear to have  
signs of life!***

Compare to Jesus cursing the fig  
tree in Mark 11.



# Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



## *The seed among the Rocks:*

- *Deterred* by the difficulties and dilemmas that accompany faith in Jesus



## Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



### *The seed among the Rocks:*

- *Deterred* by the difficulties and dilemmas that accompany faith in Jesus  
= an Erosion of confidence in the ***sufficiency*** of Christ (Christ is enough.)



# Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



## *The seed among the Thorns:*

- *Distracted* by the delights and demands of this world



## Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



### *The seed among the Thorns:*

➤ *Distracted* by the delights and demands of this world

= an Erosion of confidence in the ***supremacy*** of Christ (Christ *satisfies*.)



## Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



*Those who endure and prove to be faithful...*

- *...recognize that there is something **worse** than persecution or even death!*



## Parable #2: The Seed and the Soils (Mark 4:1-20)



*Those who endure and prove to be faithful...*

- *...recognize that there is something **worse** than persecution or even death!*
- *...recognize that there is something **better** than anything this world can offer!*





*The faith that endures even through suffering and death is a faith that has already died to self for the sake of a supreme, single-minded pursuit of Christ and spreading the fame of His name.*