

Mark 4:3-6

³ Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path ... 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 4:16

Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.

• Many people <u>eagerly embraced</u>
Jesus's teaching!

Mark 4:17

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.

- Many people <u>eagerly embraced</u>
 Jesus's teaching!
- Many people <u>stumbled</u> at the <u>cost</u> of following Jesus.

Mark 1:12-13

At once the Spirit <u>sent Him out</u> into the desert, ¹³ and He was in the desert forty days, being <u>tempted</u> by Satan.



I Peter 1:6

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you <u>may have</u> had to suffer grief in <u>all kinds</u> of trials.

Trouble makes me choose.
 Trouble will purify me.

1 Peter 1:7

These have come so that your faithof greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by firemay be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

EXPECT TROUBLE.

- God is committed to this refining process.
- Faithfulness begins today.
- Faithfulness will never go unchallenged.