

# Mark 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

## Analysis

Jesus explains rocky-ground hearers: 'these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness.' The emotional, enthusiastic reception ('immediately...with gladness,' εὐθὺς μετὰ χαρᾶς) seems promising but proves superficial. The word 'receive' (λαμβάνουσιν) indicates initial acceptance without depth. This describes false converts or immature believers whose profession lacks root. Reformed theology distinguishes true conversion (involving repentance, understanding, perseverance) from mere emotional response. Genuine faith endures; false profession withers under trial. The warning: enthusiastic beginnings don't guarantee genuine conversion.

## Historical Context

First-century evangelism produced similar results—crowds enthusiastically followed Jesus but many abandoned Him when teaching became difficult (John 6:60-66). Early church experienced false professors who initially joined but later departed (1 John 2:19). Church history repeats this pattern: revival produces enthusiastic converts, but testing reveals many lacked root. Modern evangelistic methods sometimes emphasize emotional response over repentance and cost-counting, producing rocky-ground converts. Wise ministry prepares new believers for certain trials rather than promising only blessing.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How can you distinguish between genuine conversion and mere emotional enthusiasm?
2. What practices cultivate deep spiritual roots that sustain faith through trials?
3. How should this warning affect evangelistic methods and expectations?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ οὗτοί εἰσιν ὥμοιώς οἱ ἐπὶ τὰ πετρώδη  
And these are they likewise on stony ground  
G2532 G3778 G1526 G3668 G3588 G1909 G3588 G4075

σπειρόμενοι οἵ ὅταν ἀκούσωσιν τὸν λόγον εὐθὲως  
which are sown who when they have heard the word immediately  
G4687 G3739 G3752 G191 G3588 G3056 G2112

μετὰ χαρᾶς λαμβάνουσιν αὐτόν  
with gladness receive it  
G3326 G5479 G2983 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 6:20** (Parallel theme): For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

**Luke 8:13** (Word): They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

**John 5:35** (Parallel theme): He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

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