

# Mark 4:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

## Analysis

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Some seed 'fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth.' Rocky ground (limestone bedrock with thin topsoil) allowed germination but prevented root development. The phrase 'immediately it sprang up' ( $\varepsilon\upsilon\theta\bar{\nu}\zeta\ \dot{\varepsilon}\xi\alpha\nu\acute{\tau}\varepsilon\iota\lambda\varepsilon\nu$ ) indicates rapid, enthusiastic growth—deceptively promising but unsustainable. Shallow roots couldn't access moisture or nutrients. This represents emotional, superficial response to gospel—initial enthusiasm without depth or perseverance. The emphasis on 'immediately' recurs throughout Mark (favorite word), here highlighting hasty but shallow commitment lacking staying power.

## Historical Context

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Palestinian terrain featured limestone bedrock beneath thin topsoil, especially in hillcountry regions. Farmers couldn't always detect shallow soil until planting revealed it. Seeds in such soil germinated quickly (warmth from stones, less soil to penetrate) but withered rapidly when roots hit rock. Jesus' audience immediately understood the image. This geological reality becomes spiritual metaphor: some hear the word with immediate joy but have no root (Mark 4:16-17)—emotional response without genuine conversion or cost-counting.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How can you distinguish between genuine conversion and mere emotional enthusiasm for Jesus?
2. What practices cultivate spiritual depth and root development in your life?
3. How does this parable warn against seeking immediate, dramatic results in evangelism while neglecting patient discipleship?

## Interlinear Text

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|      |       |        |       |       |              |       |       |        |
|------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
| ἄλλο | δὲ    | ἐπεσεν | ἐπὶ   | τὸ    | πετρῶδες     | ὅπου  | οὐκ   | ἔχειν  |
| some | And   | fell   | on    | G3588 | stony ground | where | not   | it had |
| G243 | G1161 | G4098  | G1909 |       | G4075        | G3699 | G3756 | G2192  |

|       |        |       |             |              |         |       |       |
|-------|--------|-------|-------------|--------------|---------|-------|-------|
| γῆς·  | πολλήν | καὶ   | εὐθὲως      | ἐξανέτειλεν  | διὰ     | τὸ    | μὴ    |
| earth | much   | and   | immediately | it sprang up | because | G3588 | no    |
| G1093 | G4183  | G2532 | G2112       | G1816        | G1223   |       | G3361 |

|        |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|
| ἔχειν  | βάθος | γῆς·  |
| it had | depth | earth |
| G2192  | G899  | G1093 |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 36:26** (Parallel theme): A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**Luke 8:13** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Luke 8:6** (Parallel theme): And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

**Amos 6:12** (Parallel theme): Shall horses run upon the rock? will one plow there with oxen? for ye have turned judgment into gall, and the fruit of righteousness into hemlock:

**Ezekiel 11:19** (Parallel theme): And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:

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