

The Parable of The Sower

What Kind of
SOIL
Are You?

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18

Matthew 13:3–9 (NKJV)

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18

Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18

Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18



LESSONS:

- ▶ The IMPORTANCE of “SOWING THE SEED” – (God’s word, Luke 8:11).
- ▶ An illustration of the role of God’s word in saving men – (Rom. 1:16; 10:17)
- ▶ How different types of hearts receive God’s Word – (Ac 17:11,12; 1 Thes. 2:16)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18



LESSONS:

- ▶ Jesus demonstrates why some reject the word of God and others accept it.
- ▶ The power the gospel has in our lives & the fruit it produces depends on the condition of our hearts!

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

The Parable Of The Sower –
Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18



- The importance of developing a proper attitude towards the Word of God!
- The strength, durability and fruitfulness of our faith is determined by the attitude we **CHOOSE** to have towards God's word!

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart
Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32



Proverbs 4:23
(NKJV)

²³ Keep your heart
with all diligence,
For out of it
spring the issues
of life.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32

Matthew 13:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: *'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;* ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32

Matthew 13:13–15 (NKJV)

**Did not start out this way - but had
“GROWN” sluggish and Lazy in their
thinking and reasoning due to their lack of
spiritual concern and corruption.**

*not understand, And seeing you will see and not
perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown
dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they
have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and
hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with
their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'*

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32

Matthew 13:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing

They were inattentive, insensible and unconcerned regarding the words of life – therefore they would not hear. Isaiah 3:30, 1;9; Jeremiah 6:16,17; Zechariah 7:11

perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart
Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32

Matthew 13:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing

**Totally and obstinately resisted the
truth of God – refused to learn –
Psalm 78:8; Isaiah 29:9; Ezekiel 12:2,3;**

perceive; ¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown
dull. *Their* ears are hard of hearing, And *their eyes they*
have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and
hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with
their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart
Proverbs 4:1-27



- Hear & give attention – 1
- Let your heart retain my words – 4
- Do not forget, turn away, or forsake wisdom – 5,6
- Love, get and exalt wisdom & understanding – 6-9
- Receive and take firm hold of instruction – 10-13
- Stay away from evil – 14-19

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Proverbs 4:1-27

Proverbs 4:20–27 (NKJV)

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. ²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #1 — The Wayside Hearer

Mat 13:19 (NKJV)

When anyone **hears the word** of the kingdom, and **does not understand it**, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Mark 4:15 (NKJV)

And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. **When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

Luke 8:12 (NKJV)

¹² Those by the wayside are **the ones who hear**; then **the devil comes and takes away the word** out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #1 — The Wayside Hearer



■ Wayside (Unresponsive Closed Minded) Hearer

- ▶ *hodos* (ὁδός, 3598) - "A road, highway, street, way" (Lou-Nida)
- ▶ The seed of the gospel could not penetrate the hard surface (13:19).
- ▶ This was the condition of the majority of the Jewish leadership of Jesus' day.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #1 — The Wayside Hearer



■ Wayside (Unresponsive Closed Minded) Hearer

- ▶ Through Satan's influences, in harmony with free-will, the word is prevented from penetrating the heart, "the place of decision" wherein they could have been saved - (1 Cor. 1:22,23; 2:13,14; 2 Cor 4:4; Eph. 4:17-19; Col. 2:8).

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #2 — Rocky Ground Hearer

Mat 13:20–21

²⁰ ... **hears** the word and immediately **receives** it with joy; ²¹ yet he **has no root in himself**, but **endures only for a while**. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately **he stumbles**.

Mark 4:16–17

¹⁶ ... **hear** the word, immediately **receive** it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they **have no root in themselves**, and so **endure only for a time**. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they **stumble**.

Luke 8:13

¹³ ... when they **hear, receive** the word with joy; and these **have no root**, who **believe for a while** and in time of temptation fall away.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #2 — Rocky Ground Hearer



■ The Undeveloped Believer

- ▶ Seed will germinate in such soil but the underlying rock prevents a deep root system.
- ▶ Receives with joy, BELIEVES, had LIFE thus saved – but does not endure persecution & temptation – (Mat 13:13; Mk 4:16-17; Luke 8:13)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #2 — Rocky Ground Hearer



■ The Undeveloped Believer

- ▶ Intellectually & emotionally affected by the word - but lacks the commitment to grow & develop - (2 Pet 1:5-10)
- ▶ Those once saved by faith can lose their faith and be lost – (1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:1,7-19; 5:12-6:8)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #3 – Thorny Ground Hearer

Matthew 13:22

²² Now he who **received** seed among the thorns is he who **hears the word**, and the **cares** of this world and the **deceitfulness** of riches **choke** the word, and he **becomes** unfruitful.

Mark 4:18–19

¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they* are the ones who **hear the word**, ¹⁹ and the **cares** of this world, the **deceitfulness** of riches, and the **desires** for other things **entering in** **choke** the word, and it **becomes** unfruitful.

Luke 8:14

¹⁴ Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when **they have heard**, go out and are **choked** with **cares**, **riches**, and **pleasures** of **life**, and **bring** no **fruit** to **maturity**.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #3 — Thorny Ground Hearer



■ Thorny Ground (Unfruitful Disciple)

- ▶ Had to compete for sunlight and nutrients.
- ▶ Weeds will choke healthy plants by sapping them of their sources of nourishment, leaving them weak and stunted.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #3 — Thorny Ground Hearer



■ Thorny Ground (Unfruitful Disciple)

- ▶ Though one is made alive by the gospel, his/her faith is suffocated by temporal concerns and pleasures — Thus the believers faith does not produce the fruit required due to a divided heart - (James 1:18,21-25; 1 Peter 1:13-2:2; Mat 6:22-24)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #3 — Thorny Ground Hearer



■ Thorny Ground (Unfruitful Disciple)

- ▶ Materialism is a certain recipe for a spiritual crop failure:
- ▶ John 15:1-10
- ▶ 1 John 2:15-17
- ▶ James 4:4
- ▶ 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
- ▶ 1 Tim 6:9,10

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

Mat 13:23

²³ But he who **received** seed on the good ground is he who **hears** the word and **understands it**, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Mark 4:20

²⁰ But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who **hear** the word, **accept it**, and **bear fruit**: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

Luke 8:15

¹⁵ But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having **heard** the word with a **noble and good heart**, keep *it* and **bear fruit** with **patience**.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer



■ Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)

- ▶ Hears & understands - recognizes the value — (Mat 13:20, 44-46)
- ▶ Receive God's Word - (Mark 4:20).
- ▶ Keeps God's Word & perseveres - (Lk 8:15).
- ▶ Bears fruit - (Lk 8:15; John 15:5)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer



■ Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)

- ▶ Win souls - (Acts 8:4; 1 Thes 1:8)
- ▶ Practical holiness - (Rom 6:22; 12:1-2; Phil 1:11; Col. 1:10)
- ▶ Fruit of the Spirit / Christ-like character - (Gal 5:22,23)

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer



■ Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)

- ▶ Is noble & honest / searches – Acts 17:11,12
- ▶ Receives the word with meekness - (Jas 1:21)
- ▶ Willing to make changes - (Acts 19:18-20; Jas 1:25)
- ▶ Bears fruit – 1 Thes 1:8-10
- ▶ A heart like the one described in Ps 1:1-3?

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.



WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?



The word of God can save anyone who is willing to receive it –
James 1:18-25



One can be saved from his past sins but fail to grow and be lost -
2 Pet 1:5-10



One can be spiritually alive but allow the world to choke out his spiritual life – Rev 3:2,3



We choose the condition of our heart – we can all be good ground hearers & bear fruit!

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

Matthew 13:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is **he who received seed by the wayside**.



No real interest in spiritual things – is your mind closed and hardened against the truth by rebellion & deception?

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

Matthew 13:20, 21 (NKJV)

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, ... ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.



Are you giving “all diligence” to develop your faith?

Have the trials and temptations in your life caused you to lose your faith?

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.



Have you allowed your faith & service to God to be choked by the cares of this life - resulting in your failure to bear fruit?

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Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”



- Open & receptive to the truth?
- Desiring to please God?
- Committed to growing?
- Focused & loyal?
- Bearing fruit for the master?

What Kind of SOIL Are You?



- Our growth & survival as a Christian, and our hope of eternal salvation, depend on applying Jesus' teachings.
- He warns, admonishes and encourages us with His words. Let us understand them and be motivated to produce much good fruit.
- Do not look at this parable just as it relates to the hearts of others'. — Let us look closely at our own hearts and always be watchful for those things that endanger our production of good fruit.

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

We Determine Condition of Our Heart
Proverbs 4:1-27



- Those refusing to hear and believe, (those with a hard & impenitent heart) will be condemned if they do not take advantage of God's long-suffering & goodness — Romans 2:4-11; Ez 18:21-32
- Will you receive with meekness God's word and be saved? — James 1:18-22
- Your hearts condition is manifested in how you respond — Acts 17:11,12

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

DO YOU HAVE EARS TO HEAR?



Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

DO YOU HAVE EARS TO HEAR?

ACTS 2:41–42 (NKJV)

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

HEAR THE TRUTH OF CHRIST
ROMANS 10:17

BELIEVE THE TRUTH OF CHRIST
JOHN 3:16; 8:24

CONFESS THE TRUTH OF CHRIST
ACTS 8:37; ROMANS 10:9,10

REPENT UNTO THE TRUTH OF CHRIST
LUKE 13:3,5; ACTS 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST
ACTS 2:38; ROM 6:3-6

FAITHFUL TO CHRIST
1 COR 15:58; COL. 1:23

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

The Parable of The Sower

What Kind of
SOIL
Are You?

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Proverbs 4:20–27 (NKJV)

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; ²² For they *are* life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life. ²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. ²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.