

THE FRUIT OF

# HONEST HEARTS





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## The Parable Of The Sower

Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18

### Matthew 13:3–9 (NKJV)

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

# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## The Parable Of The Sower

Matthew 13:3-23; Mark 4:3-20; Luke 8:4-18

### Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> 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.



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## 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.”



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## 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)



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## 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!



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## 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!



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Proverbs 4:23; Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32



## Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)

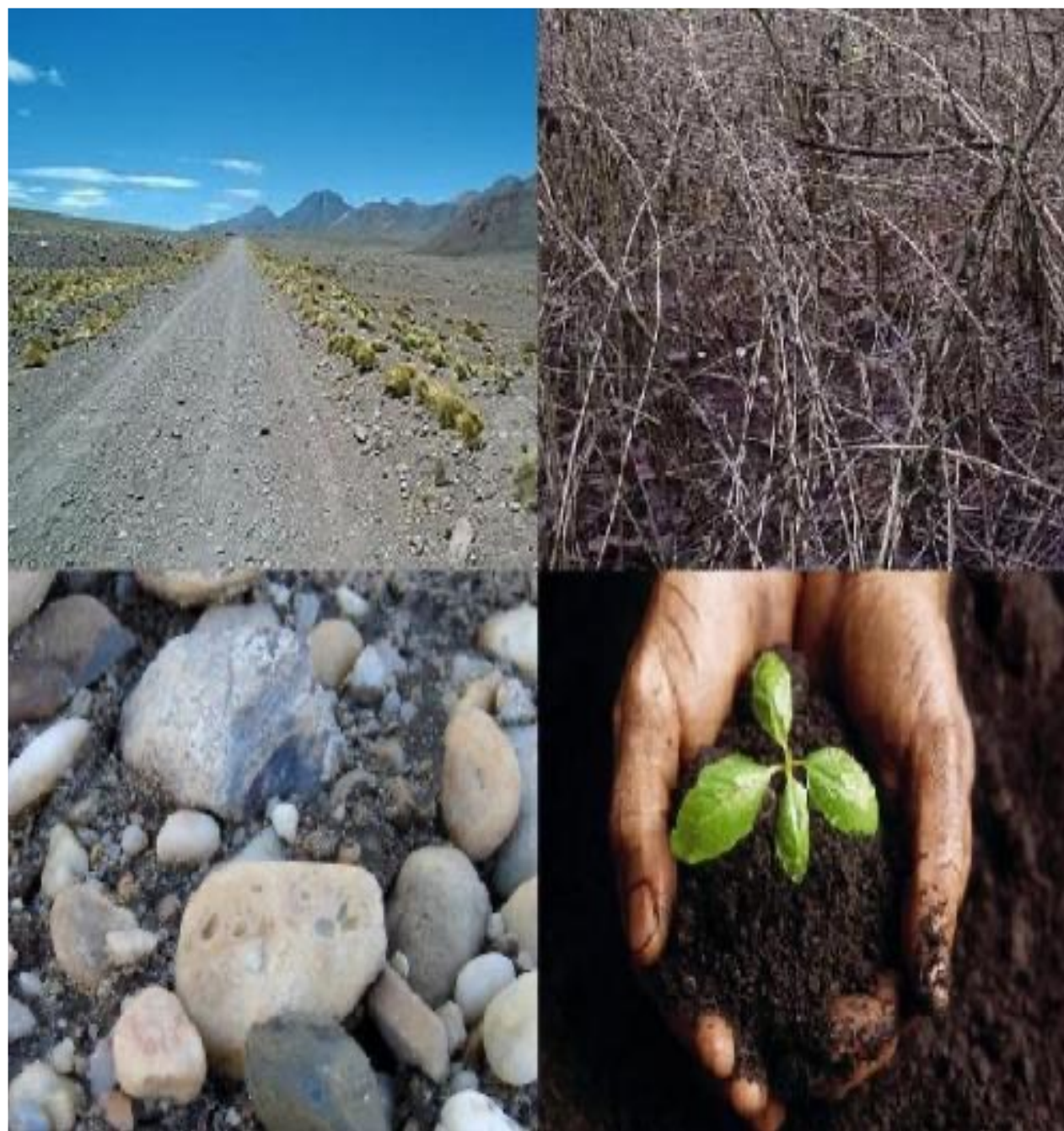
<sup>23</sup> Keep your heart  
with all diligence,  
For out of it  
*spring* the issues  
of life.



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Proverbs 4:23; Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32



- 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



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## We Determine Condition of Our Heart

Proverbs 4:23; Mat 13:9-17; Isaiah 6:9,10; Ezekiel 12:2; 18:30-32

### Proverbs 4:20–27 (NKJV)

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



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #1 — The Wayside Hearer

**Luke 8:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

### ■ 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.



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## SOIL #1 — The Wayside Hearer

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### ■ 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).



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #2 — Rocky Ground Hearer

**Luke 8:13**

<sup>13</sup> ... 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.**

### ■ 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)



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #2 — Rocky Ground Hearer

**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.

### ■ 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)



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #3 — Thorny Ground Hearer

**Luke 8:14**

<sup>14</sup> 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

### ■ 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.



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### ■ 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)



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### ■ 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



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

**Luke 8:15**

<sup>15</sup> 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

### ■ Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)

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



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## SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

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<sup>15</sup> 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

### ■ 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)



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## SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

**Luke 8:15**

<sup>15</sup> 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

### ■ 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?



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## SOIL #4 — Good Ground Hearer

### Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> 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; <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> 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.





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

**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?





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

he who received the seed on stony places,

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

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





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

he who received seed among the thorns



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



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

he who received seed on the good ground

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





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## KNOWN BY OUR FRUIT

who indeed bears fruit and produces

- Departs from iniquity
- Is faithful to the Lord
- Edifies and encourages
- Godly husband / wife
- Godly parent
- Godly neighbor





# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS

## KNOWN BY OUR FRUIT

who indeed bears fruit and produces




### **Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is  
love, joy, peace,  
longsuffering, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>  
gentleness, self-control.  
Against such there is no law.



# What Kind of SOIL Are You?

- 
- Those who bear thorns & briars will be burned (Heb 6:8; 2 Thes 1:7-9)
  - Those with no fruit will be “cut off” (John 15:1-6)
  - Those who are unprofitable will be cast away - into “outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Mat 25:30)

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23



# 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



# THE FRUIT OF HONEST HEARTS



The word of God can save anyone who is willing to receive it – John  
John 7:17; 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!



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## DO YOU HAVE HEARS TO HEAR?



**Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)**

<sup>28</sup> Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”



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## DO YOU HAVE HEARS TO HEAR?

**ACTS 2:41–42  
(NKJV)**

<sup>41</sup> Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*. <sup>42</sup> 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







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## Proverbs 4:20–27 (NKJV)

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