

The Parable of the  
**SOWER**

*Having A Heart For  
Fruitful Faith*

MATTHEW 13:3-8, 18-23



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith 2

## 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!



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith <sup>3</sup>

M A T T H E W 13 : 1 - 9 , 18 - 23

## 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!"



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith 4

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

## 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.



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith 5

MATTHEW 13:1-9, 18-23

Matthew 13:18-23 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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."



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith

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



- ◆ Jesus demonstrates why some reject the word of God and others accept it.
- ◆ The condition of the heart, (soil) determines the reception of the word, (seed) & the fruit produced.
- ◆ The power the gospel has in our lives depends on the condition of our hearts!



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith <sup>7</sup>

We Determine Condition of Our Heart  
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.



## 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)

**<sup>13</sup> Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup> 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; <sup>15</sup> 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.*'**



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith 9

## We Determine Condition of Our Heart

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

Matthew 13:13-15 (NKIV)

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.

understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; <sup>15</sup> **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.'



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith 10

## We Determine Condition of Our Heart

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

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

because seeing  
hear, nor do they  
of Isaiah is  
ar and shall not  
ot perceive; <sup>15</sup> 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.'



## 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)

<sup>13</sup> Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, nor do they hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup> Truly and obstinately resisted the truth of God – refused to learn – of Isaiah is fulfilled in them: they have heard, but shall not understand, and seeing they will see and not perceive; <sup>15</sup> 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.*



## 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



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

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 FOUR SOILS . . .

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## Wayside Hearer

**Matt 13:19 (NKJV)**

<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.

**Mark 4:15 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> 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)**

<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



- ◆ The nature of the soil would not permit penetration on the part of the seed of the gospel (13:19).
- ◆ This was the condition of the majority of the Jewish leadership of Jesus' day.



## Wayside (Unresponsive Closed Minded) Hearer



- ◆ The person who hears the gospel but never comes to saving faith - (Romans 10:6-18)
- ◆ 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; Ephesians 4:17-19; Col. 2:8).



# THE FOUR SOILS . . .

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## Rocky Ground Hearer

**Matt 13:20-21 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> . . . , 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.

**Mark 4:16-17 (NKJV)**

<sup>16</sup> . . . , when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;  
<sup>17</sup> 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 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> But the ones on the rock *are those* who, 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.



## Rocky Ground Hearer



- ◆ A hard substratum of rock with a thin layer of soil.
- ◆ Seed will germinate in such soil but the underlying rock precludes a deep root system.
- ◆ “And some fell upon a rock and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture” (Luke 8:6).



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith <sup>19</sup>

## Rocky Ground (The Undeveloped Believer)



- ◆ Receives with joy, BELIEVES, had LIFE thus saved – but does not endure persecution & temptation – (Mat 13:13; Mk 4:16-17; Luke 8:13)
- ◆ Both intellectually & emotionally affected by the word - but lacks the commitment to grow & develop, & stumbles -(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 FOUR SOILS . . .

## Thorny Ground Hearer

**Matt 13:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> 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.

**Mk 4:18-19 (NKJV)**

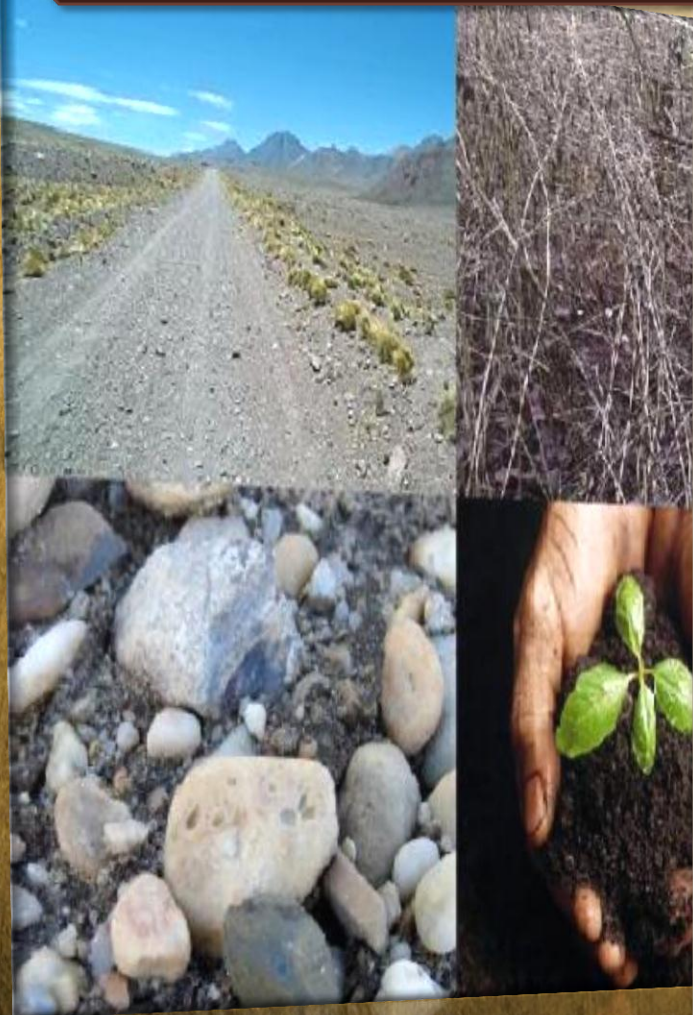
<sup>18</sup> Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, <sup>19</sup> and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**Luke 8:14 (NKJV)**

<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 maturity.



## Thorny Ground Hearer



- ◆ Seed that fell among thorns had to compete for sunlight and nutrients.
- ◆ Weeds will choke healthy plants, leaving them weak and stunted by sapping them of their sources of nourishment.



## Thorny Ground (Unfruitful Disciple)



- ◆ Thorny soil represents one who is made alive by the gospel, but is suffocated by temporal concerns and pleasures, this believers faith does not produce the fruit required due to a divided heart - (James 1:18,21-25; 1 Peter 1:13-2:2; Matthew 6:22-24)
- ◆ Materialism is a certain recipe for a spiritual crop failure - (John 15).



# THE FOUR SOILS . . .

23

## The Good Ground Hearer

**Mat. 13:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> 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 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> 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 (NKJV)**

<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 patience.



## The Good Ground Hearer



- ◆ Hears & understands the word - (Mat 13:20)
- ◆ Receive God's Word - (Mark 4:20).
- ◆ Keeps God's Word & perseveres - (Luke 8:15).
- ◆ Bears fruit - (Luke 8:15; John 15:5)



## Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)



◆ **Fruit that one who has this heart will bear:**

- ❖ **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)



## Good Ground (Fruitful Christian)



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



# Having A Heart For Fruitful Faith <sup>27</sup>



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 Is The Condition of Your Heart? <sup>28</sup>

Matthew 13:19 (NKJV)

<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.



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



# *What Is The Condition of Your Heart?*<sup>29</sup>

**Matthew 13:21 (NKJV)**

<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.



Have you fallen away  
due to the trials and  
temptations in your  
life?



# What Is The Condition of Your Heart?<sup>30</sup>

**Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>22</sup> 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 - ceasing to bear  
fruit?



# What Is The Condition of Your Heart?<sup>31</sup>

Matthew 13:23 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> 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

Committed to growing  
Focused & loyal  
Bearing fruit for the  
master?



*What Is The Condition of Your Heart?*<sup>32</sup>

# You Decide!

**Romans 2:4-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who *"will render to each one according to his deeds"*:



*What Is The Condition of Your Heart?*<sup>33</sup>

# You Decide!

**Romans 2:4-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, <sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.



*What Is The Condition of Your Heart?*<sup>34</sup>

## You Decide!

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."







# *What Is The Condition of Your Heart?*

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