Parable of the Sower

Greg Kline · Matthew 13:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- But we focus on the soils of this passage. And that certainly is the gist of the message.
- A lot of it is about the soils and how they received and responded to the seed, and how that seed was able to grow or not grow in it.

1 Why Does He Tell Parables?

Matthew 13:9–17; Luke 8:9–10; John 12:48

- For this people's heart has grown dull. And with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed.
- The parable of the sower is talking, yes, about the soils. But what is the root of the difference in the soils? Those who do not have a dull heart.
- We know from John chapter 12 and verse 48, it's the words of Christ that will judge us in the last day.
- Hearing the word of God is a critical component of being a Christian, of being good soil.

2 The Wayside Soil Is the Hardened Hearer

Matthew 13:19

- When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart.
- This first side, this wayside soil, is the hardened hearer.
- Their hearts had grown dull. They would not understand by their choice. The problem was not in the message.

3 The Rocky Ground and the Thorny Ground

Matthew 13:20–22

- This is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. Yet he has no root in himself.
- There is a root that needs to take place. It's not just about joy.
- But the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- And unfortunately, this might be the most active risk for everyone in this room this morning.

4 The Good Soil Hears, Understands and Bears Fruit

Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15

- This is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.
- The good soil applies it to their life.

- They are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.
- If I see the word of God and realize I need to change, I must change, because that is what the word of God demands.

5 Which Soil Am I?

Matthew 6:25–34; 1 Timothy 6:9–10; 1 Timothy 6:17–18

- If I allow the evil one to come and snatch away what has been sown, that's on me.
- We will never make it through this life. If we rely on joy and emotion rather than the word of God.
- But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- But the good soil takes all that could be a distraction and channels them towards God.

6 How Do I Remain the Good Soil?

Luke 8:15; John 15:1–6

- In Luke chapter 8 in verse 15, we see that this is to hold fast with a good and honest heart. It means a willingness to realize that I might not have it all figured out.
- Not just understanding what the will of the Lord is, but to do it, to submit to it, because we are responsible for bearing fruit.
- Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me, you can do nothing.
- Wherever our root is, we should strengthen it. If we don't have one, we should plant it.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let's take root this morning. Let's engage our minds to hear and understand. And take that understanding, to take that good news, apply it, and bear fruit.**

MY NOTES