Sampling the Soils

Greg Kline · Matthew 13:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- If we are going to be followers of Jesus, are we concentrating on what that means?
- Am I with Christ? Am I in Jesus? Am I doing what God wants me to do?
- The key is that the seed that is being sown, the seed that is being spread, the seed is the word of God.

1 The Wayside Soil Does Not Understand

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.
- What is this path soil? It is soil that does not even take in the message.
- This is somebody who rejects truth, somebody who hears the word but does not do them.
- The truth is it is the soil which is unwilling to receive the seed and unwilling for it to bear fruit.

2 The Rocky Soil Has No Root

Matthew 13:20–21

- If we have no root in ourselves, we will endure for a while. But when tribulation, when persecution arises on account of the word, what happens? Immediately he falls away.
- If we're going to avoid being the rocky soil, we have to be ones who have root, who have depth.
- When Jesus says, pick up your cross and follow after me, it's not a slogan to get going. It is a life sacrifice.
- If we're responding to the seed that is the word of God, we will allow it to take root in our lives and change us, much like the good soil does.

3 The Thorny Ground Chokes the Word

Matthew 13:22

- As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.
- Am I the one who hears the word and basically have a plant there? But do I allow other things to choke it out?
- Do I allow my time to be spent doing the Lord's work, focused on changing myself, bearing fruit for God? Or am I preoccupied, caught up with things of this life?

4 Which Soil Am I?

Luke 8:15; John 12:42–43; Mark 9:43–47

- As for those in the good soil, they are those who hearing the word hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with patience.
- It is possible to know, to understand, to have heard the words of life and to reject it.
- For those who do say that Jesus is Lord and I'm going to do that, I have to wonder, am I the rocky soil? Am I who I confess to be?
- We need to plow deep. We need to think about the words of life and be so filled with them that when temptation comes, we say, No, that is not God's will.
- If something's in your way, cut it off, even if it's your hand, your foot, or your eye, because life is worth everything.
- I can check my calendar. I can check my bank statements and see where my emphasis is.

5 We Need to Be Sowing the Seed

Acts 9:4; 2 Chronicles 33:1–8

- We should not leave this without saying that we need to be sowing the seed.
- Saul changed, so anybody can.
- If God can forgive them, then how dare I ever withhold the gospel from any, thinking they won't listen, they won't understand, or they won't change.
- The sower, giving the words of life, sowed the seed on all kinds of ground.
- We need to sow the seed to everybody, no matter what we think they might say.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Am I doing whatever Jesus has told me? Am I submitting to the inspired word of God?**

MY NOTES