

The Parable of the Soils

MATTHEW 13:1-9; 18-23

Parables

- ▶ a story drawn from a “real life” situation that communicates one or more spiritual truths.
- ▶ Not an allegory in which each detail has meaning.
- ▶ A parable will communicate one, or possibly a few basic truths.

Matthew 13:1-9

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.

Matthew 13:1-9

⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:1-9

⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”

Matthew 13:18-23

¹⁸ “Hear then the parable of the sower: 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 is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,

Matthew 13:18-23

²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 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.

Matthew 13:18-23

²³ As for what was sown on good soil, 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 Parable of the Soils

- ▶ The Sower: Jesus
- ▶ The Seed: the gospel of the kingdom
- ▶ The Soil: the human heart.

The Key Issue: Responsiveness or unresponsiveness to Christ's Message.

The Hard Heart

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 is what was sown along the path.

The path is worn or hardened and can't receive the seed.

The Hard Heart

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

The Hard Heart

¹⁵ For **this people's heart has grown dull**, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”

The Hard Heart

What makes a human heart hard?

Sin, Rebellion, Pride

Hebrews 3:8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,

Jeremiah 7:26 Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

The Shallow Heart

20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 **yet he has no root in himself**, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Are you ever persecuted because of the Word?

The Word planted deeply helps us persevere.

The Strangled Heart

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.*

The concerns of daily life and/or the pursuit of riches **GRADUALLY** strangle the spiritual life.

The Strangled Heart

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,** and all these things will be added to you.

The Open Heart

23 *As for what was sown on good soil, 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 open heart hears, understands and receives.

The Open Heart

*Ezekiel: 36:25-27. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And **I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.** And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

The Open Heart

Is your heart open to receive Christ and His Message?

Are some of your daily concerns choking your spiritual life?

Are you fully embracing Christ and His Word? Is the Word being established in your life?