

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Worship and Dirt*  
**Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23**

**Keywords:** gospel, worldliness, worry, peace, salvation

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Jesus speaks a well known parable about seeds and dirt. But in it all was really a message of worship. The word of the kingdom is a call to come and worship the Lord. To come and be saved and washed of our sins. But the hard reality is that though the message is clear and the message is good, it is often lost in the hearts of the hearers. In this evangelistic message Pastor Henry seeks to explain the passage and calls sinners to hear the gospel and come to Jesus for salvation.

**I. Introduction.**

A. Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23.

1. Jesus is beginning to teach using this technique known as a parable.
2. They are like a two-edged sword that cuts both ways. One is a way to instruct the faithful in some specific truth. But at the same time it hides truth from those who are resisting and hardened against Jesus.
3. Here in this mixed crowd of people Jesus begins a series of parables related to the long awaited rule of God known as the Kingdom of God.
4. They all heard what Jesus has taught. But not all desired to receive what was taught. Like vss 14-15 say, they see but won't understand. They listen but don't hear.
5. Many are merely listening with a heart to resist and find fault and so Jesus teaches now in parables.

B. Give background on vss 3-9 and explain them.

1. Point out that except for the path, the other soils were not obvious as to their nature.
2. The farmer was doing everything right in the casting of his seed. But that did not mean that everything turned out the way he wanted.

**II. The "Word of The Kingdom."**

A. Vs 19, "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom. . . ." What is the meaning of this phrase?

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- B. It is a message about a kingdom that is unique over any kingdom that has ever existed.
- C. You see, the “word of the kingdom” is a call to worship the true King and be saved from our sin through him. It is all about worship and what people truly do worship.

## **III. The Eternal Value of a Good Heart.**

- A. The Hard Heart.
  - 1. This is a person who does not “understand” the message.
  - 2. This is the person who hears the good news that God saves sinners and frankly doesn’t care.
  - 3. He worships anything and everything other than Jesus.
- B. The Shallow Heart.
  - 1. This is the person who receives the message of salvation quickly and with little thought.
  - 2. It is an emotional response and not a work of God convicting and bringing the person to Himself.
  - 3. This is the person who doesn’t consider what is being said. They don’t count the cost of following Jesus.
  - 4. Affliction and persecution (21).
  - 5. This person worshiped personal peace and security.
- C. The Divided Heart.
  - 1. This is the heart that is filled with the cares of this world
  - 2. Good intentions that get choked out and die.
- D. The Good Heart.
  - 1. Why is it a good heart?
  - 2. What is that fruit?

## **IV. Conclusion.**

- A. Here then is the issue. We can talk about the various hearts.

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- B. But what you need to know is the gospel, the way out.
- C. You need to turn from anything you worship and become a worshiper of God.
- D. How?
  1. Through Jesus.
  2. Even now give your heart and life to Jesus. Seek his forgiveness.