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Pastor Jason King

The Parable of the Soil

Matthew 13:1-13 (NLT)

“Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Why did Jesus teach in Parables?

Matthew 13:10-13 (NLT)

“His disciples came and asked him, “Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?”

“He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who **listen** to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use these parables:

What does all this mean?

Matthew 13:18-23 (NLT)

“Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds:

What is the condition of the soil of your heart?

1. Is your heart hard?

Matthew 13:19 (NLT)

“The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.”

2. Is your heart shallow?

Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT)

“The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word.”

3. Is your heart strangled?

Matthew 13:22 (NLT)

“The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.”

4. Is your heart soft?

Matthew 13:23 (NLT)

“The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”