

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

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The Soil of the Heart

All Bible verses are in the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise indicated

- Hearing Jesus had become entertainment
- The parable demands engagement
- Two people can hear the same truth and respond in completely different ways.

Matthew 13:18 Hear then the parable of the sower:

- Jesus is responding to the responsiveness of the disciples heart in contrast to the hearts of the hearers who's hearts are "dull".
- He is training them.
- The Sower is a person – Jesus
- The seed is the word of God
- The soil is the heart
- 4 people each with different soil/heart condition.

Soil #1 – The Hardened Heart

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 is what was sown along the path.

- Soil is hardened and blocks the seed from being buried.
- Hard ground.
- No desire to understand
- Evil one (the bird) – Satan himself
- Spiritual warfare birds

Soil #2 – The Shallow Heart

Matthew 13:20-21 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.

- In parts of Israel, rocky ground.
- A thin layer of soil over limestone rock.

- Seed springs up quickly because the soil was shallow, but without depth, the roots could not go down.

Soil #3 – The Crowded Heart

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.

- This person hears the Word. The Word begins to grow. But other things grow with it.
- It is slow suffocation.
- This person can look very involved, but anxiety and money strangle the word.
- Mark and Luke say the Word is being choked by desires for other things and the pleasures of life.
- The crowded heart is not necessarily anti-God. It is overcrowded.

Soil #4 – The Fruitful Heart

Matthew 13:23 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 word is heard, understood, received and it produces visible fruit.
- Fruit shows up as transformation over time – 30/60/100 fold.
- Not everyone produces the same measure, but all good soil produces fruit.
- Fruit is the evidence that the Word has taken root.
- The proof is not the seed in the soil, but the fruit being produced.

What fruit is the word of God producing in you today?