

Rocky Soil

The soils in the parable of the sower represent the hearts of people. There are many people whose hearts are like the soil of the path. Their hearts are hard. Others are like what was sown in rocky soil: superficial and little depth. (The next two kinds of soil we'll discuss in coming weeks.) How is your heart? Is it open to the work of God? He wants to root you deeper and deeper in Him, Colossians 2.7. He wants to build you up and make you stronger. He wants to establish you in the faith. He will do this only if you allow Him. It all depends on your heart. What must we know about rocky soil?

I. Matthew 13:20-21 - the Rocky Soil

- A. Matthew 13:20: *And the one sown on **rocky** ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.*
- B. What is Jesus describing here? The person with shallow faith.
 1. Let's look at v. 21a: *But he has no root and is short-lived.*
 2. Matthew 13:21b: *... **distress** or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away.*
- C. Count the Cost
 1. Luke 14:26–27: *If anyone comes to me and does not **hate** his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own **cross** and come after me cannot be my disciple.*
 2. Luke 14:33: *In the same way, therefore, **every** one of you who does not renounce **all** his possessions cannot be my disciple.*
- D. When Jesus uses that word “pressure” in Matthew 13.21, that is what comes when life events force us to choose. The depth of our soil is going to place a major result in how things turn out.
 1. 2 Timothy 3:12: *In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will** be persecuted.*

II. Pressure is Not All Bad

- A. James 1:2–4: *...the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and **complete**, lacking nothing.*
- B. James 1:12: *Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

III. How to Get Rid of the Rock

- A. Are you trying to flourish in rocky soil? This will not work out well. Help is required.
- B. Ephesians 6:17: *Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.*
- C. Allow the Word to Sink into Your Heart
 1. Colossians 3:16: *Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, A mind saturated with the Word.*
 2. Job 23:12: *I have treasured the words from his mouth more than my daily **food**.*
- D. Allow it to do it's job
 1. Hebrews 4.12: *For the word of God is **living** and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*
- E. Recognize the Power Behind It
 1. Truth: Jesus called the Word, God's truth, John 17.17.
 2. Content: Its message has the ability to sway a heart.
 3. Source: 1 Thessalonians 2:13: *you welcomed it not as a human message, but as it truly is, the word of God, which also works effectively in you who believe.*

IV. As We Close...

- A. How deep is your connection to Christ?
- B. A true disciple stays, bears fruit, and remains abiding in the vine permanently bearing fruit.
- C. Can we help you make the connection you need with Christ?