

# The Sower's Message

As we move into November — we move into the final part of our 2023 Vision Plan — we'll be talking about the kind of heart we possess. And really, this is all very fitting, as it fits really well with the verse that has set the tone for our theme this year, Colossians 2.6-7. Everything in these verses is the direct result of God's work on our behalf. God has brought you salvation. What will be your response? How is your heart? In Matthew 13, Jesus explains the parable of the sower/soil. He is the sower; the seed is the word; and the soil is the human heart. What kind of heart responds to God? What is an unresponsive heart?

## I. The Parable (Matthew 13.3-9)

- A. Matthew 13.3 - A common scene of Jesus' day: A **sower** scattering seed.
- B. Matthew 13:4-9: Here Jesus mentions the soil in/along the path.
  - 1. 13.5-6: Some of the seed fell in **rocky** ground ... with soil of little depth.
  - 2. 13.7: Other seeds fell among the **thorns**.
  - 3. 13.8: Finally ... we see the **good** soil.
  - 4. 13.9: Jesus invites us to think thru what He has said.

## II. The Meaning of the Parable (Matthew 13.18-23)

- A. Who is the Sower?
  - 1. Jesus: Matthew 13:37: *The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;*
- B. What is the Seed?
  - 1. 13.19: *The word **about the kingdom**.*
  - 2. **Luke 8.11:** *This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.*
  - 3. The seed is the gospel. This parable is all about the the good news.
- C. What are the Soils?
  - 1. The soil is a person's heart.
  - 2. Matthew 13:19: *When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and **snatches** away what was sown in his **heart**. This is the one sown along the path.*
  - 3. A person's heart determines their reception of the gospel.

## III. The Unresponsive Hearer (Matthew 13.19)

- A. Matthew 13:19: *When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one sown along the **path**.*
- B. This is the hard hearted person.
  - 1. Unresponsive; inattentive; unconcerned; indifferent.
  - 2. A person can develop a heart that is so pounded by sin that it loses all sensitivity.
    - a) no sorrow for sin; no guilt.
    - b) calloused and indifferent.
- C. Satan gets involved and snatches away the seed.
  - 1. 2 Corinthians 4:4: *In their case, the god of this age has **blinded** the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the **gospel** of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
  - 2. False teachers; fear; prejudice; stubbornness; love for sin; procrastination.

## IV. As We Close... Don't forget...

- A. Gratitude and it's response to God's work
- B. Self-Reflection on spiritual growth
- C. Philippians 2.13: *For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.*