

## Good Soil

It's been so good to spend November in the parable of the soils. The soils in this parable represent the hearts of people. "How is your heart?" "Is it open to God?" The condition of your heart determines your reception of the gospel. Here, 4 different types of soil are described: Hard, rocky, thorny, and good. The person with the good heart is responsive. He or she welcomes the word. They hunger and thirst after righteousness. They long to please God. What can we do to cultivate our heart so that we are effective in our service?

### I. The Good Soil

- A. Matthew 13:23: *But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who **hears and understands** the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown.*
  1. See how the emphasis is on the person who receives the word and not so much the seed itself.
    - a) Mark 4:20: And those like seed sown on good ground hear the word, welcome it, ...
    - b) Luke 8:15: They **hold** on to it and by enduring, produce fruit.
  2. This is the person who cares. He doesn't ignore the instruction of the word.
- B. Connecting This to Colossians
  1. Those who have good soil for a heart:
    - a) Colossians 2.6a: *So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as **Lord**, ...*
    - b) Colossians 2.6b: *continue to walk in him...*
  2. God by His Spirit continues to work helping them become deeper and deeper rooted in Him:
    - a) Colossians 2.7a: *being **rooted** and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, ...*
    - b) Colossians 2.7b: *... overflowing with **gratitude**.*

### II. Fruitfulness is the Point

- A. **Matthew 13.23b**: *But the one sown on the good ground—this is one... who does **produce** fruit and **yields**: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown.*
- B. What is fruit?
  1. *The evidence of the divine life.* It is seen in
  2. Our attitude. Galatians 5.22-23: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The law is not against such things.*
  3. Our righteous behavior. Colossians 1.10: *bearing fruit in every **good work** ...*
  4. Soul Winning: Romans 1.13: *...that I might have a **fruitful** ministry among you,...*
- C. Don't get discouraged. Luke 8.15: *hold on to it and by **enduring**, produce fruit.*
  1. The enemies of the gospel are Satan, the flesh, and the world.

### III. As We Close...

- A. Sowing doesn't depend on your talent.
- B. Sometimes we sow seed and it gets plowed under ... and you just have to wait.
- C. Self Examination What kind of soil are you? Do you need God to plow your heart?
- D. Now is the Time... Will you surrender to the Lord today?