A Farmer From Galilee
Matthew 13:1-23

SLIDE 1

ONE FIELD, FOUR DIFFERENT SOILS

Jesus' audience pictured one ordinary Galilean field.

• Hardened paths crossed the field.
• Shallow soil covered hidden bedrock.
• Thorn roots remained beneath the surface.
• Good soil allowed the seed to grow.

One sower.

One kind of seed.

Four different responses.

SLIDE 2

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand."

Matthew 13:13

• Parables reveal truth to those who are willing to listen.

• Parables conceal truth from those who refuse to hear.

"He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:9

SLIDE 3

THE SEED AND THE SOILS

The seed represents the message of God's kingdom.

The soils represent different responses to God's Word.

• The hard heart
• The shallow heart
• The distracted heart
• The fruitful heart

The seed does not change.

The condition of the soil determines the response.

SLIDE 4

THE HARD HEART

“Some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.”

Matthew 13:4

• The soil is hardened.
• The seed never enters.
• The message is heard but not received.
• The enemy quickly takes it away.

A hard heart hears God’s Word but refuses to let it in.

SLIDE 5

THE SHALLOW HEART

“Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil.”

Matthew 13:5

• The seed springs up quickly.
• There is enthusiasm but no root.
• Trouble exposes the shallow response.
• The plant withers when following Jesus becomes difficult.

A quick response is not always a lasting response.

SLIDE 6

THE DISTRACTED HEART

“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.”

Matthew 13:7

• The seed begins to grow.
• Worries compete for attention.
• Wealth creates false security.
• Pleasures prevent spiritual maturity.

The Word is heard, but other desires gradually choke it out.

SLIDE 7

THE FRUITFUL HEART

“Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop.”

Matthew 13:8

The fruitful person:

• Hears the Word
• Understands the Word
• Holds firmly to the Word
• Lives out the Word
• Produces spiritual fruit

Faith that is truly rooted will eventually become visible.

SLIDE 8

THE SOWER KEEPS SOWING

Much of the seed appears to be lost.

Some never enters the soil.

Some grows briefly.

Some is eventually choked

But the sower continues scattering the seed

Our responsibility is to sow faithfully. God is responsible for making it grow.

SLIDE 9

This parable is not only about other people. It asks each of us to examine our own heart.

WHAT KIND OF SOIL AM I?

Is my heart hard?

Have I responded without developing roots?

Are worries, wealth, or pleasure choking my faith?

Am I receiving God's Word and producing fruit?

SLIDE 10

HEAR AND DO

"He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:9

• Keep listening to God's Word.
• Sow the seed wherever you go.
• Do not become discouraged by slow results.
• Pray that God will soften hard hearts.
• Receive the Word deeply.
• Allow God's truth to produce fruit.

Do not merely hear the Word.

Hear it, hold it, and live it.

Slide 11: Reflection Questions:

Prayer: Lord, give me ears to hear, a heart that receives, roots that endure, and a life that bears fruit…….

1. Help me surrender the distraction of _____.

2. Lord, show me where my heart has become hard toward _____.

3. Help me receive what You are trying to teach me about _____.

4. Lord, deepen my roots so that I will continue trusting You when _____.