



Open

Share about a time in your life you just wanted to fit in? What made you want to fit in? Did you do something you normally wouldn't to try to belong? How did fitting in or not fitting in affect you?

Scripture Focus:

[Luke 8:18](#)

Today's Focus:

What are we doing with what we are hearing?

Watch:

Click [HERE](#) to watch sermon clip (38:45 - 47:30)

Sermon Discussion:

As Jesus sat with His followers, he began to tell a story, the Parable of the Sower. Jesus, though, focused more on the soil and its condition or readiness to bear fruit than any other aspect in the story. This parable still rings true to this day, it speaks to the readiness of our hearts to hear the Word of God, accept its truth and willingness to allow it to bear fruit in our lives. As Jesus begins the story we learn there is not just one soil but four different types of soil: Trampled soil were the most birds feed and seed cannot grow representing the hard heart, Rocky soil that is sun scorched and the seed cannot take root representing the shallow heart, Thorny soil were the seed is choked out and dies representing the crowded heart, and Good soil where the seed can take root, is safe, and has room to grow, breathe and bear fruit representing the fruitful heart.

- **Which of these types of soil, if any represent where your heart is in relation to the Word of God?**

As we continue into the story, we are told how each type of soil not only represents the state of our hearts but our readiness to receive and live out God's word in our lives. A hard heart might hear the word but won't truly believe. A shallow heart signifies people who hear the Word and receive it with joy, but because there is no ability to take root and sustain them, the Word withers from the person. A crowded heart shows the busyness of the person who hears the Word of God but is too invested in the busy-ness of life and eventually loses interest in the things of God. Lastly, there is the fruitful heart which is open and receptive to the Word such that it takes root in the heart and transforms the person. The Word cannot ever do the work it was meant to if the heart is not receptive to it. We are the ones who decide how our hearts will react when we encounter the Word of God. We are distinguished from others by our love and our fruitfulness.

- **Where do you see the Word of God bearing fruit in your life?**

*"I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial.
'I have the right to do anything'—but not everything is constructive" (1 Corinthians 10:23).*

*Jesus promises us that "In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).*

Study Questions:

1. **Which of these types of soil, if any represent where your heart is in relation to the Word of God?**

2. **Where do you see the Word of God bearing fruit in your life?**

