The Parable of the Sower

What is the Condition of Your Heart?

Matthew 13:1–23



Matthew 13:1-9

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them.

Matthew 13:1-9

Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants.

Matthew 13:1-9

Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

What is happening in my heart when God's Word comes to me?

Jesus' story is about four types of soil. The seed is never the problem. The soil is a picture of four types of responses, really four kinds of soil...our heart.

I. The Hard Heart—When God's Word Cannot Penetrate

What does a hard heart look like today?

How does our heart become hardened?

1. Familiarity without responsiveness.

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2. Unresolved hurt and disappointment

1. Familiarity without responsiveness.
2. Unresolved hurt and disappointment
3. Pride and self-sufficiency

II. The Shallow Heart — When Faith Has No Deep Roots

How do we develop deep roots?

III. The Crowded Heart — When Good Things Crowd Out the Best Thing

Three kinds of thorns

1. The worries of life

Three kinds of thorns

1. The worries of life
2. The deceitfulness of wealth

Three kinds of thorns

1. The worries of life
2. The deceitfulness of wealth
3. The pleasures and distractions of life

IV. The Fruitful heart — When God's Word Produces Lasting Fruit

V. Preparing the Soil of Our Hearts

Here are four practical habits to take home today.

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