

“The Sower, the Seed, and the Soil”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Intro: This is Jesus’ first parable. What is a parable? Why did Jesus speak in parables? His parables reveal the kingdom.

- I. Soil one: the path
 - a. Represents hard heart and rejection of God’s Word
 - b. Hardness of heart is due to sin (pride)
 - c. Examples: Pharaoh (Ex 7:22), the Pharisees (Mk 3:5)
 - d. *Tiller:* repent and be humble (Da 4:24-37)

- II. Soil two: rocky ground
 - a. Represents shallow faith/reception of God’s Word
 - b. Shallowness is due to lack of a root
 - c. Example: Israelites at Sinai (Ex 24:3, 7; Je 11:7-8)
 - d. *Tiller:* be rooted in Jesus (Jn 15:5; Co 2:6-7)

- III. Soil three: choked by thorns
 - a. Represents unfruitful response to God’s Word
 - b. Unfruitfulness is due to worry, wealth, worldliness
 - c. Example: Solomon (Dt 17:16-17; 1 Ki 3:9; 10:26-11:6)
 - d. *Tiller:* set heart on God’s Word (Dt 17:18; Ps 119:37)

- IV. Soil four: good soil
 - a. Represents believing/responding heart to God’s Word
 - b. Fruitfulness (crop) is due to faith, trust, obedience
 - c. Example: Abraham (Ge 15:6; 22:13-18)
 - d. *Tiller:* ask God for a soft, humble heart (Ez 36:25-27)

Close: The very hearing of this parable produces the effects that it describes. Which type of soil are you today? And what type of tiller do you need for your heart?