

The Four Soils

January 10, 2016

Matthew 13:1-23

The seed is the **Word** of God.

1) **Hard soil** (wayside)

And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. **Matthew 13:4**

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **Matthew 13:19**

- Hardened in **sin**
- No **root**
- No opportunity for the **Word** to soak in
- These may be inside and outside of the Church

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **1 Corinthians 1:18**

2) **Stony soil**

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. **Matthew 13:5-6**

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **Matthew 13:20-21**

- **New and pleasing**
- **No roots**
- Treated like a new “**fad**”
- Falls away during **tough** times

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. **Job 2:9-10**

Paul, Joseph and Job, just to name a few, all faced persecution/ tribulation.

“A little pressure, a little persecution, they are on to the next fad, they have no root.” ~ **Chuck Missler**

3) **Thorny soil**

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. **Matthew 13:7**

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **Matthew 13:22**

- **Squashed** out by the earth
- **Cares** (good or bad)- family, work, school, friendships, power, popularity, selfishness, etc
- **Riches**
- **Anxieties** of the world

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. **1 John 1:6-7**

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father

but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

Remember, God brings the fruit, the Fruit of the Spirit

4) Good soil

But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 13:8-9

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Mathew 13:23

The good soil are those whose hearts are prepared by Grace to receive it honestly, and to give it full opportunity to grow.

"The Parable of the Sower concerns a sower who scatters seed, which falls on four different types of ground. The hard ground "by the way side" prevents the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed becomes nothing more than bird food. The stony ground provides enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is "no deepness of earth," the plants do not take root and are soon withered in the sun. The thorny ground allows the seed to grow, but the competing thorns choke the life out of the beneficial plants. The good ground receives the seed and produces much fruit."¹

A call to Salvation, that is a call to know God, is to:

- **Trust** what He has done for us in Jesus
- To deny our **self**
- To **follow** Him
- To **count** the cost

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" **Matthew 16:24-26**

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Luke 14:25-34

"If our lives do not reflect the fruit of following Jesus, then we are foolish to think that we are actually followers of Jesus in the first place." ~ **David Platt**

"The call to follow Jesus is not simply an invitation to pray a prayer; it's a summons to lose our lives."

~ **David Platt**

Prayer Focus:

- **What kind of soil am I? Hard, stony, thorny or good?**
- **Do I know Jesus and if so am I following Him with all of who I am?**
- **Do I need Jesus to save me?**

¹ <http://www.gotquestions.org/parable-sower.html>