

## Introduction

- Luke 8:4-15
- Companion passage Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

## The Audience

- Jesus spoke to a large group in parable
  - people out of every city
- He compares hearers of the Word to seed sown in 4 different soils
- Everyone listening to this message is also a hearer of the Word
  - Each of us can be represented by 1 of these 4 soils
  - ask yourself which one am I

## The Sower

- The Sower sowed seed on 4 types of soil
- Some of the soil was clearly bad for planting
  - The soil of the wayside was hard
  - The rocky soil was dry
  - The thorny soil was overrun by weeds
- Why waste good seed on bad soils?
  - Hard soil can soften
  - dry soil can be watered
  - weeds can be plucked

## The Seed

- The sower sowed seed so that it would produce fruit in the soil
- The seed interacted with all 4 soils.
- Not all seeds / soil combinations produced fruit

## The 4 Soils

- (show image)
- The soil of the wayside (pathway).
  - Think of a dirt road packed down by foot traffic.
  - It is a hard soil.
- The rocky soil
  - lacked moisture.
  - Think of desert soil, rocky and dry.
- Thorny soil
  - choked the seed.
  - Weeds steal the nutrients of competing plants, choking them.

- Think of a garden bed overrun with weeds
- Good soil
  - bears fruit
  - Think of a garden bed

## Interpretation

### The Seed

- The Word of God
- Just as the seed's purpose was to produce fruit out of the soil, in the same way the word is to produce fruit in your heart
- The Word of God interacts with each of the types of hearts
- Just as the seed was sown in seemingly bad soils so must the Word go out to all people.
- Not all hearts produce fruit after hearing the Word of God.

### The Hard Soil

- They hear
  - be encouraged to evangelize even to the hard hearted
  - "take away the word out of their hearts" - The Word of God reaches even the hard hearts.
  - "the devil cometh ... lest they should believe and be saved" - if the devil had not come they would have believed. They are that close to salvation
- Devil sows confusion
  - Matthew 13:19 - the wayside soil hears the Word but does not understand
  - Matthew 13:23 - the good soil hears and understands
  - John 8:44 - father of lies
  - Beware the devil, who would have you confused
  - All types of false teachings aimed to confuse the truth
- Devil in the garden
  - Genesis 3:1 ... he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
  - Genesis 3:4 - And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
  - Genesis 3:5 - For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
  - Casting doubt - did God really say this?
  - Confusing the character of God - God didn't mean what he said
  - Telling lies and half truths - hidden meaning behind the plain understanding of what God said.
- Hearing is not enough to produce saving faith.
  - Just going to church
  - Just reading the bible
  - Just listening to Christian music

## The Rocky Soil

- They receive the Word with Joy
  - They are enthusiastic
  - They look like the plants in the good soil, but underneath there is no root.
  - Some people think that if you walk like a duck, swim like a duck, and quack like a duck it makes you a duck.
  - Mimicry copies the superficial things, but fails to recreate the really important things
- When time of temptation come they fall away
  - Matthew 13:21 - when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word
  - There is no real foundation, their belief was superficial.
  - When their belief is tested they reveal that the depth of their faith was shallow.
- they have no root / no root in himself
  - What does it mean to believe, but have no root?
  - Colossians 2:6, 7 Rooted in him (Jesus Christ)
  - To believe but have not root is to take Jesus out of the Word of God.
  - The Word of God is all about Jesus. To neuter the Word of God by removing Jesus is a shallow faith that will not stand up to testing.
- They see the Word of God as a solution to a problem but do not have a relationship with Jesus
  - - a moral framework to live by
  - - a diet / fasting for weight loss
  - - a coping mechanism to deal with guilt / confession
  - - prosperity gospel

## The Thorny Soil

- go forth
  - They leave the Word of God
  - Chase after cares, riches, and pleasures of this life
  - They lack commitment to the Word of God
  - Instead they commit to the things of the World
- Deceitfulness of riches
  - The devil uses lies to deceive
  - What is being promised is not what is being delivered
  - Its like with Marketing, when food advertisers use special film techniques to create food art.
  - (Show image)
- Choked
  - They are choked with cares and riches and pleasures
  - Matthew 6:24 - No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
- Bring forth no fruit

## The Good Soil

- Heard the Word
  - They listen to what God has to say
  - Hebrews 10:25 - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
  - - They are present and accounted for when the Word of God is spoken.
- Understand
  - Matthew 13:23 - understand the Word
  - - Seek understanding
  - 2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
  - - Study
  - - Rightly dividing
- Keep it
  - Commit to it.
  - - They do not go forth. They do not chase after the Words of the World.
  - Rooted in Jesus.
  - - Not captivated by the prosperity gospel.
  - - Take hold of the person of Jesus
  - Daily continue in it
- Bring forth fruit
  - Matthew 13:23 - some 100 fold, some 60, some 30
  - Matthew 7:15-20 - you will know them by their fruits
  - Others can observe fruit in your life
- with Patience
  - over a long time
  - endurance / not giving up
  - Day by day continuing in the Word of God

## Conclusion

- Good Soil
  - Listen and hear God's Word
  - Be present and accounted for
  - Seek understanding
  - Study, rightly dividing scripture
  - Committed to God's Word
  - Rooted in Jesus
  - Daily reading
  - noticeably bearing fruit
  - Enduring over time day by day, not giving up