

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1 Which type of soil best describes the current condition of your heart: path, rocky, thorny, or good? Why?
- 2 Is there a hardened area in your heart where you've stopped listening to God? What caused it, and how can it be softened? What distractions or "thorns" are choking God's Word in your life right now (e.g., worries, busyness, desires for other things)?
- 3 What fruit (results) of God's Word can you see growing in your life right now? What kind of harvest are you producing?

### WE DO LIFE TOGETHER!



SCAN QR

If you haven't been involved in a LIFE Group yet, send us a message thru Fb, and we will get you connected to a small group.

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### SERVICES

Sundays  
10AM

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Mon to Sat (except Tue)  
8am - 12pm

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# SUNDAY WORD

06 • 08 • 2025

## EYES TO SEE, EARS TO HEAR

PART 5 - WHAT KIND OF SOIL AM I?

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 13:1-23

### I. SAME SEED, DIFFERENT SOILS

The seed is the same in every part of this story. Jesus says the seed represents the Word of God: the living, breathing truth that comes from God Himself. This seed is powerful. It's not weak. It's not faulty. It's not lacking in any way. In Isaiah 55:11, God Himself declares, "...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty..." That means God's Word always carries potential, comes with purpose, and is never wasted. So the issue is not whether the Word of God works, but whether it's received.

What does that tell us? The problem isn't the seed. It's the soil. The seed doesn't change. The condition of the heart does. This is a sobering reality. This parable isn't about evangelism techniques. It's not about how exciting the preacher is, or how trendy the church feels, or how emotional the worship gets. It's not about how many times you read your Bible. It's about how people receive what God is already saying.

### Two Important Truths on the Parable of the Sower:

**1. It reveals something about Jesus' heart.** Jesus is not holding back truth from us. He's not selective with His Word. He's not scattering seed only in clean, perfect places. He's scattering it everywhere, on all types of soil. Why? Because He's generous. He's hopeful. He wants everyone to have a chance to receive it.

This parable shows us a Savior who speaks to all, not just the ones who seem ready. He gives the same opportunity to the hard-hearted, the shallow-hearted, the distracted-hearted, and the tender-hearted. He's not stingy with His Word. He keeps scattering. That's the heart of Jesus. He doesn't give up on people. He knows that soil can change.

**2. It reveals something about the human heart.** Our hearts are not all in the same condition. Some hearts are soft. Some are stubborn. Some are cluttered. Some are shallow. We all have the capacity to hear the same Word but respond in very different ways. That means your spiritual growth doesn't depend on how much Word you hear, but on how open your heart is when you hear it.

It's easy to blame our dryness on others. "The message didn't hit me," or "I wasn't feeling it today." But Jesus lovingly shifts the spotlight inward. He says: "Look at your heart." That's where the difference is made. Not in the delivery, but in the receptivity. And to help us understand this more clearly, Jesus doesn't leave it vague. He gives us a mirror, a spiritual diagnosis, through four kinds of soil, which represent four kinds of heart conditions. Let's break them down and see where we really stand.

## II. FOUR SOILS , FOUR HEART CONDITIONS

### 1. The Path: The Hardened Heart - Matthew 13:19

The first kind of soil Jesus mentions is the path. It's walked on. Over and over again. It gets packed down. Compacted. Hardened. And eventually, nothing can sink into it. Jesus says some hearts are like that. The Word comes, but it can't get in. It just sits on the surface, exposed, and the devil doesn't even have to fight hard to steal it. He just snatches it up. Now here's the question: How does a heart become like that? Nobody wakes up one day saying, "I want a hardened heart." But it happens. Sometimes because of pain. Sometimes because of disappointment. Sometimes because of betrayal. A heart that's been walked on too many times, starts to build a wall. It's a defense mechanism. You hear the Word but it doesn't go in. Not because it's not true, not because it's weak, but because your heart has become calloused.

God says, "I love you." But your heart says, "If You loved me, why did You let that happen?" God says, "Forgive." But your heart says, "They don't deserve it. I'm not ready to let go." God says, "Trust Me." But your heart says, "Last time I trusted, I got hurt." It's not because the seed is not powerful. It's that the soil has become resistant. And Jesus is showing us something deep and compassionate here. He's not condemning the hardened heart. He's revealing it, because He wants to heal it.

The good news is, even the hardest ground can be softened. Jesus is not just the Sower. He's also the Gardener. He knows how to get into the places that have been trampled. He knows how to water the dry ground. He knows how to tenderly, patiently, consistently dig deep, if you let Him.

If you feel like, "That's me. I'm numb. I'm guarded. I want to believe, but it's hard." Then this is for you. Jesus doesn't avoid hardened hearts. He moves toward them. And He invites you to be honest with Him. You don't have to fix your heart first. You just have to open it. Ask Him: "Lord, soften my heart. I don't want to resist You anymore. Heal what's made me hard." Because when the soil softens, even the Word that used to bounce off, suddenly begins to take root.

### 2. The Rocky Soil: The Shallow Heart - Matthew 13:20-21

This second kind of soil looks like it's working. The Word is heard, and the response is quick. There's excitement. Joy. Maybe even tears. You start showing up to church more. You post the verse of the day. You feel inspired. But then something happens. The feelings fade. A problem hits. A prayer doesn't get answered. A temptation shows up again. And just like that, growth withers and dies.

Why? Jesus tells us there's no root. Beneath the surface are rocks. And those rocks represent things we never dealt with, things we didn't let God remove. Unconfessed sin. Pride. Shame. Secret habits. Or maybe a need for constant emotional highs to stay motivated. And when the Word tries to go deeper, it can't.

We liked the idea of following Jesus, but not the cost. Not the surrender. Not the obedience when it gets uncomfortable. It's a shallow faith. It looks good at the surface, but it's not built to last the storm. What's underneath the surface? A rocky ground isn't obvious at first. You don't see the problem until the sun comes out. Until heat comes. Until real life presses in. That's when we find out if the root is deep. But don't lose hope. Just like with hard soil, God can do something about shallow soil too. He can help you dig deep. He can reveal the hidden rocks and give you the strength to move them.

That means Jesus isn't angry about shallow soil. He's warning us about it. Because He wants depth. He wants us to grow strong, not just fast. So if you're tired of quick starts and sudden stops in your walk with God. If you're done with faith that only works when life is easy, then let Him go deeper. Let Him dig past the surface and do the hard work of building a faith that lasts. Because when your roots go deep, your fruit will also last.

### 3. The Thorny Soil: The Crowded Heart - Matthew 13:22

This is probably the most common heart condition today. The Word goes in, but there's no room to grow. Too many competing priorities. It's not that you rejected God, you just crowded Him out. You hear the Word: "Seek first the kingdom of God." But life says: "Yeah, but I also have bills to pay, goals to meet, and a hundred other things that can't wait."

You want to grow but you're choked by worries, or the pursuit of success, or a hundred little distractions that drain your spiritual energy. It's not a hard heart. It's not even a shallow heart. It's a busy heart. But even that can be deadly. Because Jesus says, the Word becomes unfruitful. The crowded heart is the kind of heart where God is in the room, but He's not on the throne.

### 4. The Good Soil: The Prepared Heart - Matthew 13:23

This is the heart that's ready. It's humble. It's hungry. It's willing to receive, not just emotionally, but deeply, with commitment. Notice what Jesus says: They hear the Word, they understand it, and then they bear fruit. That's the key: the fruit comes after the root. This is the heart that shows up saying: "God, speak to me and I'll obey You." Not just feel something, but follow through.

And the beauty of good soil is that it always multiplies what it receives. The Word doesn't just sit in your heart. It starts to transform your life, your relationships, your habits, your thoughts, your purpose. You start to bear fruit, and suddenly, other people are being fed by what God is doing in you. What kind of soil are you right now? Because this isn't just a story about seeds and soil. It's an invitation to let God do something deeper in you. To prepare your heart. To pull out what doesn't belong. And to make you ready for the kind of fruitfulness you were always meant to walk in.

## III. SOIL CAN CHANGE AND GOD IS THE ONE WHO CHANGES IT

This is the heart we all long to have. The good soil. The heart that receives. The heart that understands. And most importantly, the heart that responds. Jesus says this soil doesn't just take in the Word. It multiplies it. The Word doesn't just bless you, it bears fruit through you.

This kind of heart isn't formed in just one Sunday service. It's cultivated over time. It's watered by tears. Turned over by trials. Softened through seasons of surrender. And fed daily by the presence of God. But when that heart is ready, the Word goes deep. And what grows out of it, only heaven can measure. Jesus says some produce 30, some 60, some 100 times more than what was planted. In other words, God always does more with a willing heart than we think is possible.