
The Parable of the Seeds

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Lean In

1. What do parables accomplish that is lacking in simple and direct speech?

Look Down

Read Matthew 13:1-23

2. To whom is this parable addressed?
3. What happens to the seed in each kind of soil? Can you elaborate on each of these types of ground?
 - a) Along the path: how does the devil take away the word from their hearts?
 - b) Among the rocks: what do the rocks represent? Why do you suppose they fell away?
 - c) Among the thorns: how do these things "choke" the Christian life?
 - d) On good soil: what are common characteristics soils which bear much fruits?
4. How does Jesus' challenge in v.9 help explain v.11-12?
5. In verse 10, the disciples ask Jesus why he speaks to the people in parables. Explain his reply (vv. 11-17).
6. How are disciples different from the crowds who come to Jesus? Who can understand the parables? Why did the disciples ask questions? Why could the crowd not understand?
7. Why does God's Word not take root in certain people? (v.15)
8. What does Jesus' explanation about the parable (vv.18-23) reveal about:
 - a. The seed
 - b. The various soils
 - c. The fruit
 - d. The farmer

Look Out

9. How would you explain this parable to to a bunch of city kids who don't know anything about sowing a field? What modern analogy would you use?

Look In

10. Jesus wants his disciples to understand the parables. How have they enlarged your understanding of the kingdom of heaven?
11. Which of the four types of soil best describes your response to the Gospel when you first heard it?
12. How would you describe the root system of your spiritual life right now? Why so?
 - a. Pretty shallow
 - b. Growing
 - c. Strong and deep
 - d. Really dry
 - e. Getting tangled with weeds
13. What are the "thorns" and "rocks" in your life which tend to choke out your spiritual growth? For what specific "thorn of worry" would you like the group to pray?

14. *“Unless you are willing to die, you will bear no fruits.”* What are the implications of this statement for your life?