

WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends or your group.



FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Have you ever planted grass seed? What were the challenges of getting the seed to germinate and grow?
2. In what type of soil would you want to plant your garden? What would you do if the soil was lacking what your seeds need?
3. In your opinion, was Jesus’ explanation of this parable meant to speak to those who will respond to God’s kingdom invitation, to the hearts of those in the church, or to both?
4. Which type of soil do you find most in the people around you?
5. Which type of soil best describes you?
6. Who is a great example of a person bearing fruit 100x’s? What is the character of their heart, and what causes them to be the best type of soil?
7. What would need to change for you to have a heart producing 100x’s for the Kingdom?

<p><i>Matthew 13:14-15</i></p> <p><i>14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:</i> <i>“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;</i> <i>you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.</i></p> <p><i>15 For this people’s heart has become calloused;</i> <i>they hardly hear with their ears,</i> <i>and they have closed their eyes.</i> <i>Otherwise they might see with their eyes,</i> <i>hear with their ears,</i> <i>understand with their hearts</i> <i>and turn, and I would heal them.’</i></p>	<p><i>Isaiah 6:9-10</i></p> <p><i>Isaiah 6:9 He said, “Go and tell this people:</i> <i>“Be ever hearing, but never understanding;</i> <i>be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’</i></p> <p><i>10 Make the heart of this people calloused;</i> <i>make their ears dull and close their eyes.</i> <i>Otherwise they might see with their eyes,</i> <i>hear with their ears,</i> <i>understand with their hearts,</i> <i>and turn and be healed.”</i></p>
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July 13 & 14, 2019 | Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23 | Steve Fish, Teaching Pastor

A SINGLE SERIES AIM

Human hearts are easily hardened, calloused, and _____. The parable of the _____ offers all an opportunity to examine the current condition of our _____.

The heart is the place of _____, the center of personality.

Matthew 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

REVIEW: WHY DID JESUS TEACH IN PARABLES?

1. Matthew spelled out a _____ between Jesus’ disciples and the _____. The parables functioned to _____ the truth from the crowd yet to reveal it to the _____.
2. The people had closed hearts. The rejection of His message was not the _____ of Jesus’ teaching but of the spiritual _____ of the people.
3. Jesus shared with the disciples “the knowledge of the _____ of the kingdom of heaven.” These secrets were revealed to those who had been given the ability to _____.
4. Those who responded positively to Jesus were _____.

THE PARABLE

Matthew 13:3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were

scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

1. The identity of the farmer (NIV) was _____ in Matthew’s parable. Ἴδοὺ ἐξήλθεν ὁ **σπειρώων** τοῦ **σπειρέιν**
 - a. The _____ was undoubtedly on task.
 - b. The act of _____ seed was specific. When the people heard this story, they most likely would have pictured _____ being sown.
2. The _____ is the message of God’s kingdom come.
 - a. Jesus shared with the disciples “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven.” (Mt. 13:11)
 - b. ALL of the seed had equal potential to produce _____.
3. Jesus called to those who had an ear, then gave the _____ an answer to which they should listen.

Matthew 13:9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13:18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:”

THREE TYPES OF FRUITLESS SOIL

1. The _____ heart never takes _____.

Matthew 13:19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

 - a. The soil along the path never received the seed despite having heard the message proclaimed. This heart did not seek _____.
 - b. Of the four soils only the hardened heart is directly influenced by the _____. The word is stolen away.
2. The _____ heart has no _____.

Matthew 13:20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

 - a. Soil in the rocky place only produced the _____ that the seed was going to mature _____.
 - b. Extending from both outside and _____ forces, trouble and persecution caused the hope of life to fall away _____.

3. The _____ heart has no _____.

Matthew 13:22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

- a. This soil is not representative of a _____. The soil was good but already taken up with lesser things.
- b. The heart is not able to live under God’s control because of _____ (anxieties) and _____ (pleasures).

A SECONDARY CONSIDERATION

The Parable of the Sower has the central focus to show how God sovereignly _____ people into His kingdom. The parable has also powerfully called believers to consider how their own hearts might be more pliable in order to produce a great harvest through their lives.

- The disciple’s heart can be _____ to God’s commands.
- The disciple’s heart can become _____ without a willingness to _____ and root deeply, especially in light of being hurt by others.
 - The disciple’s heart can be _____ with the things and pleasures of this world.

ONE TYPE OF FRUIT-BEARING SOIL

Matthew 13:23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

1. Fertile soil hears and _____ the Word.
2. This soil produces _____ times what was sown in it. Why?
 - a. Option #1: The _____ of the heart determines what is produced. The best hearts produce a _____ crop of 100 times what is sown. Other hearts produce less because they are not of the same quality.
 - b. Option #2: The _____ of heart determines what is produced. The greater _____ of God and His kingdom truth multiplies the effectiveness of the believer’s impact.
 - c. Option #3: The yield _____ throughout the life of the plant. At times, the effectiveness is 100x, at other times, it may be less.

The Conclusion: The point is the same no matter which option(s) you choose. All Fruit-bearing soil is _____ !