

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Text: Matthew 13:3-9 (parable), 18-23 (interpretation)

INTRODUCTION

- The seed = “the _____ of the kingdom” (vs. 19) = the gospel of Christ.
 - A living seed (1 Peter 1:23)
- The soil = the human _____;
- The plant that sprouts = evidence of new life emerging from the heart.
- The sower = the one broadcasting the seed, a gospel _____.
- Four ways to receive the message of the Word:
 - I. THE _____ GROUND (vs. 4, 19)**
 - Wayside = a path, road, street.
 - Problem = hard-packed soil, representing a lack of _____.
 - The fowls (birds) = the Devil and his _____ (vs. 19).
 - They will seek to prevent understanding in several ways:
 - By keeping people _____ from the sound of the Word (Rom. 10:17).
 - By driving the Word from their _____.
 - By hardening their thoughts and hearts against the Word in _____.
 - By _____ them if they can.
 - II. THE _____ GROUND (vs. 5-6, 20-21)**
 - Stony ground = places without much _____ in which to grow plants.
 - Question: Why do so many seem to get saved, begin well, then fall away?
 - Answer: Their response wasn't _____ enough (didn't reach the heart).
 - Vs. 20, “w/ joy receiveth it” = primarily an _____ response.
 - Vs. 21, when tribulation or persecution comes along because of the Word, they are offended.
 - Offended = “scandalized” = to _____ over Christ and back into sin and unbelief.
 - When they begin to see there's a cost to following Christ, they quit.
 - If the Devil can't come at you like a bird, he will come at you like a _____.

III. THE _____ GROUND (vs. 7, 22)

- Thorny ground = soil where the fruit-bearing plants have competition from weeds and are choked out before they can bring fruit to _____ (Luke).
- The third way the Devil opposes the spread of the gospel is by _____ people with the cares, riches, lusts, pleasures of this present life.

III. THE GOOD GROUND (vs. 8, 20)

- Good because prepared, plowed, soft, and ready to _____ seed.
- This is the only soil type in the parable that describes a truly _____ person (John 15:16).
- Vs. 20, both hearing and “receiving” the Word describes the volitional aspect of _____, choosing to appropriate the gospel to oneself.
- It's not enough to hear, a person must hear and _____ by believing in his heart.

CONCLUSION

- Application 1: Which soil type represents your personal _____ to God's Word?
- Application 2: As a believer, are you doing your part to _____ the seed of the gospel?