

In Search of Good Soil

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I. Introduction

A. The Seed

1. Every seed that was sown had potential to produce much more seed.

B. The Sower

1. The sower is a man who goes into his field with the intention of spreading seed to raise a crop.

C. The Soil

1. What we find is that the soil is good, but it is the conditions of the soil that create the challenges for the seed to reproduce.

Matthew 13:1-3 (NIV) ¹*That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed."*

Matters of the heart

Matthew 13:4 (NIV) *"As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up."*

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

Matthew 13:5-6 (NIV) ⁵*"Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."*

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰*"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away."*

Matthew 13:7 (NIV) *"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."*

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."*

Matthew 13:8 (NIV) *"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) *"But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown."*

Matthew 13:9 (NIV) *"He who has ears, let him hear."*

II. Conclusion

Question: What is holding you back from showing and sharing the love of God no matter where you are or who you are with?