

Reflection Questions: What heart do I currently have to the hearing of God's Word? What evidence in my life is proof that the Word of God has taken root deep in my heart? What kind of fruit is my life producing? Am I casting seeds of the gospel wherever I go? How can I do this better?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

You cannot squeeze the demands, and the comforts, and the glories of the Kingdom of God into the busyness and drivenness of the Western culture value system; it won't happen.

John David Tripp

By this method of teaching in parables Jesus not only invited His audiences to penetrate below the surface and find the real meaning; at the same time He allowed them the opportunity—which many of them took of turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to the real point at issue.

Frank Marshall

There are many more, whose religion must be sustained by enthusiastic surroundings. They seem to have been baptized in boiling water; and unless the temperature around them is kept up to that point, they wither away... the religion that is born of mere excitement will die when the excitement is over.

Charles Spurgeon

Words may be sound and lively enough, but it is up to each hearer to let them sink in and become fruitful. If he only hears without responding—without doing something about it and committing himself to their meaning—then the words are in danger of being lost, or of never coming to anything. The whole story thus becomes a parable about the learner's responsibility, and about the importance of learning with one's whole will and obedience, and not merely with one's head.

C.F.D. Moule

All believers are called to be witnesses to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not to tamper with the seed, nor can they cultivate the soil. Rather, they are to faithfully cast the gospel message.

John MacArthur



Parable of the Soils

Sermon
Notes

October 30, 2022

1. The Seed on the Road
2. The Seed on Rocky Places
3. The Seed on Thorny Ground
4. The Seed on Good Soil

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. How could the long-awaited Messiah be so widely rejected by so many of His own people?
3. What does Jesus bracket this parable with (*Mark 4:3, 9*)? What is meant by this?
4. What are the four kinds of soil in this parable (*Mark 4:3-8*)? What do they represent? Which ones are fruitful or unfruitful (*Mark 4:14-20*)? Why?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
5. Why do people who hear the very same gospel message respond in such a wide variety of ways?
6. What is it that makes the good soil “good”? Explain using Scripture.
7. What is *the mystery of the kingdom of God* (*Mark 4:11*)?
8. What reason did Jesus give for teaching in parables (*Mark 4:11-12*)?

9. Why did Jesus tell stories but not explain them to everyone?

10. According to the following verses in Exodus, who hardened Pharaoh’s heart?

4:21 — 9:7, 35 —

7:3 — 10:1, 20 —

7:14, 22 — 11:10 —

8:15, 19, 32 — 13:15 —

What does this tell us?

11. What fruit will the true follower of Jesus produce?

Matthew 7:16-20 — *Colossians 1:6, 10* —

Galatians 5:22-23 — *Hebrews 13:15* —

Philippians 1:11 —

How much of this fruit will the true follower of Jesus produce? Explain.

12. What can we do to ensure we are open to hearing the Word of God and responding with fruit?