

6.1.2025

Series: Jesus' Parables About the Kingdom

Topic: **Having a Heart for the Kingdom**

Text: Matthew 13:1-23 NIV

Text Overview:

Jesus steps out of the house, sits by the sea, and tells a story that's more than just a farming tip—it's a spiritual soil test. The Parable of the Sower isn't about agriculture; **it's about the condition of our hearts**. And spoiler alert: not all soil is created equal. Do you have a heart for the Kingdom?

1. The Setting: A Seaside Sermon (Matt. 13:1-2)

- Jesus teaches from a boat while the crowd stands on the beach. Talk about a floating pulpit!
- The setting reflects a shift—Jesus is now teaching in parables, revealing truths to those who are ready and concealing them from those who aren't.

2. The Interpretation: It's All About the Heart (Matt. 13:18-23)

- The **Sower** (Jesus) is faithful to sow the seed. There is one Sower but all types of soils.
- The **Seed** is the Word of God.
- The **Soil** is the human heart (heart in scripture is the innermost being of a person encompassing the emotions, will, intellect, and our spiritual life in the Kingdom of God).
 - We love the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 6:5)
 - The heart is sometimes unknowable (Jeremiah 17:9)
 - God looks at the heart, not the outward appearance (1 Sam. 16:7)
 - Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see (experience, have revelation) of God. (Matt. 5:8)
- The condition of the soil determines the fruitfulness of the seed.

3. The Parable: Four Soils, One Sower (Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23)

- **The Unconcerned Heart - The Path (Hard Heart):** Hard-hearted hearers. The seed bounces off like a ping-pong ball, and the birds (a.k.a. Satan) swoop in and devour it.
Admonition: Be careful that we don't get careless or callous in our walk with the Lord. (cf. Luke 8:12)
- **The Uncommitted Heart - The Rocky Ground: Shallow hearts.** These folks sprout fast but wilt under pressure: quick joy, no root.
Admonition: Be careful that we don't get weary in well-doing.
- **The Unserious Heart - The Thorny Ground: Distracted hearts.** The Word gets choked out by worries, wealth, and worldly desires (cf. 1 John 2:15-17; 1 Tim. 6:9-10).
Admonition: Be careful that we don't let the culture crowd out the heart for God's will in our lives.
- **The Understanding Heart - The Good Soil:** Receptive hearts. These folks hear, understand, and bear fruit—some 30, some 60, some 100 times over.. (cf. Gal. 5:22-23; John 15:5).
Admonition: Always be in pursuit of God's purpose.
- **The Unhealed Heart – The Traumatized Ground: Hurting (wounded) hearts. The Cultural Climate of our Day.**
 - **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, prophetic declaration, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”
Assignment: Prayer for the Harvest

Conclusion: What Kind of Soil Are You?

- Jesus isn't asking us to be farmers—He's asking us to be fruitful.
- The Sower is faithful. The seed is powerful.
- The question is: what kind of soil are you today?