

Good Soil

Matthew 13:18

Parables

- Such large crowds gathered around him
- he told them many things in parables

Parables

- Listen then to what the parable of the sower means
 - “hear”
 - The sower - Jesus
 - The seed - the message of the kingdom
 - The soil - those who hear

Openness

- When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it...
 - comprehension
 - understanding that challenges our thinking and behavior

Openness

- ...the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart
 - This is the seed sown along the path.

Openness

- The soil along the path is hardened and unable to receive the word.
- Our hearts must be open and ready to receive the word.

Depth

- 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...
 - since he has no root, he lasts only a short time

Depth

- We must allow the word of God to penetrate deep into our hearts.
- Shallow enthusiasm will not sustain us.

Depth

- Developing depth requires time.
 - sprang up quickly
 - at once received it with joy
 - quickly falls away
- Do not be in a hurry.

Depth

- Depth is essential for endurance.
 - they withered because they had no root
 - When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

Focus

- The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns
 - is the man who hears the word,
 - but the worries of life...choke it

Focus

- thorns...grew up and choked the plants
 - competition for resources

Focus

- worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth
- relationships
- necessities
- work
- possessions
- entertainment
- leisure
- joy
- satisfaction
- security
- ease
- comfort

Focus

- choke it
 - crowd in
 - pressure
 - compete for our energy, time, and resources
- unfruitful

Fruit

- But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil
 - is the man who hears the word and understands it.
- “comprehension that challenges our thinking and behavior”

Fruit

- He produces a crop,
 - yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Fruit

- Abiding in Christ
 - life aligned with kingdom values
 - righteousness
 - joy
 - peace
 - love
 - good deeds

Good Soil

- Open your hearts to receive the message of the kingdom.
- Allow the word to penetrate deep into your being.
- Remain focused on Christ.
- Let his word transform you and bear fruit.