

**“The Parable of the Sower and the Four Types of Hearers” 12/10/17**  
**Matthew 13:1-23**

**Sermon Series- “Essential Jesus: The Man, the Mission, the Message”**

*“He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man” (Matt 13:37)*

<i><b>Type of Soil</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>	<i><b>Type of Hearer</b></i>
Road, Wayside, Path (same Greek word for all)	Fell along path, trampled, wild birds devoured	Hears the Word, does not understand, Satan snatches away Word so that they may not believe and be saved
Rock or Rocky ground	Not much soil, immediately grew because of no depth, but was scorched by sun and withered away because of no root or moisture	Hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy; no root and believes/endures only for short time (temporarily), but immediately stumbles and falls away because of tribulation, trials or persecution <u>due to the Word</u>
Among thorns	Thorns sprang up and choked the seed and produced no crop	Hears the Word, but anxieties of the world, deceitfulness of riches, pleasures of life, desires for all other things choke the Word and results in no fruit
Good or beautiful soil	Fell on good ground and grew and produced a crop of 100, 60, and 30	Hears the Word, understands and receives it, clings to it with a noble (honest) and good heart and indeed bears fruit and produces some 100, some 60, some 30

Grey shaded areas above result in seed producing NO FRUIT (i.e. not genuine believers)

This chart summarizes all three accounts (see also Luke 8:4-15 and Mark 4:1-20)

**Going Deeper** *God wants you to ask yourself how good is your hearing!*

*“Take care how you listen...” Luke 8:18*

**Soil (heart) Characteristics**

- 1) heart made hard by trampling of things; unresponsive to the truths of God
- 2) superficial/emotional response; no repentance or willingness to obey (Matt 7:26)
- 3) worldly/distracted hearer; has priorities out of sync; produces no genuine fruit
- 4) Fruit bearer who **clings** to the Word of life; obedient and willing to stay faithful in trials; Galatians 5:22-23; learns and obeys the Word; serves, shares, duplicates

*“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.” (John 15:16)*