

“Jesus’ Teaching Changes / Parables”
Matthew 13: 1-23

September 11, 2022

Jesus will use parabolic language to hide the truth from the show watchers

Parable = casting alongside; the hearer must strain to know what is being said

Mysteries = “*musterion*” = something not revealed in the Old Testament, and revealed in the New Testament

Mysteries are not revealed to rejectors – *only those seeking the truth!*

The nation rejected Messiah, their fate is sealed, they will go through the Tribulation - **Matthew 23: 37-39**

""Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"" Matthew 23:37-39

Verse 1 - 2
The Setting

By the seashore, Jesus makes sure everyone can hear Him clearly – the sea acoustics are perfect

To understand the other parables, one must understand the *Parable of the Soils*

Verse 3 - 9

The Parable facts are stated

The “*Sower*” is the farmer who sows seeds,
which falls on four different types of soil

(*hearts*)

Verse 10 -13

Disciples: *What's going on Jesus?*

The disciples are confused:

Why parables?

What's going on Jesus?

Have you ever wondered?

What is this one all about?

Why now?

Why this way?

WHY, GOD?



The cure for the “Why’s?”

TRUST!!

“I will trust in the Lord until I die”

(Richard Farmer)

Verse 14 - 15

Isaiah's prophecy for clarification

Jesus tells His disciples where the nation was in Isaiah's time and in His time – **REJECTION!**

Hearts grown dull, ears hard of hearing, eyes they have closed – **REJECTION OF JESUS!**

They blasphemed the Holy Spirit – this is termed *“Judicial Hardening”* (past the point of no return!)

This can happen to a nation, an individual, or a Church!

Verse 16 - 17

Blessed are those who see and hear

**There are a few not swept up in the world
and its ways - *those who see and hear
Messiah!***

Verse 18 - 23

Jesus explains this parable

This parable is all about the condition of the soil – the HEART!

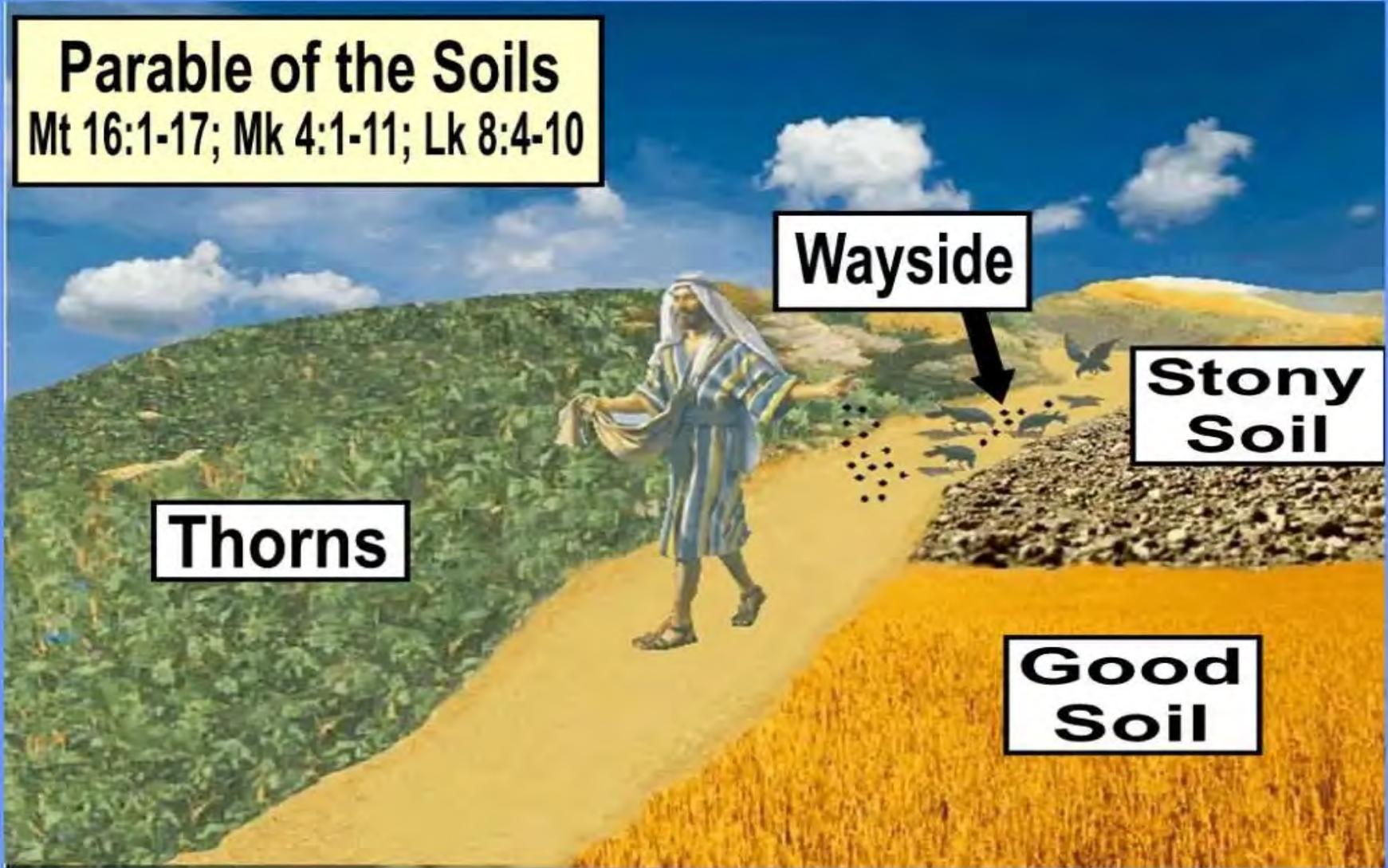
**Sower = the person who gives/sows the Word
Mark 4: 14**

Seed = the Word of God – Luke 8: 11

**Soil = the condition of the heart at the time of
hearing the Word – Matthew 13: 19**

**The seed that is sown will land on four types
of soil:**

Parable of the Soils
Mt 16:1-17; Mk 4:1-11; Lk 8:4-10



Thorns

Wayside

Stony Soil

Good Soil

Wayside = the Word is sown and lands on a hard path/hard soil = ***hard heart***
Luke 8: 12

“The devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”

Satan is afraid of what the Word can produce in any person – **SALVATION**

What has happened to the Word in most American Churches?

It's ABSENT!

RESULT:

DECEPTION!

Jeremiah 5: 31 sounds eerily familiar today

PASTORS: Give them the God of the Word to keep them from the gods of the world

Stony = the Word is sown and lands on rocky soil = ***shallow heart*** = give me a sugar daddy Jesus

- When disappointed in Jesus, *they bolt!*
- ***“No root in himself”*** – root must be in Christ, not self – **Colossians 2: 6**



Thorny = the Word is sown , the soil is thorny, but has some soil for seed to take root = ***compromised, divided heart***

“ the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful”

- Outwardly worships God and worships the world; torn between two lovers
- Not abiding in Christ, always doubting, frequently in turmoil, choked, miserable

Some believe this is a picture of the carnal Christian; only God knows if this person is genuine!

Good Soil = *receptive heart*

- Saved and maturing
- Being conformed to the likeness of Christ
- Actively involved
- Filled with the Holy Spirit
- A fruitful, productive Christian (*few*)

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Practical thoughts about your daily **soil** = *the condition of your **heart***

CHRISTIAN – *This is for you!!*

What is the condition of my **heart when I am receiving the Word?**

*An unprepared heart is not ready to receive; the **Word** may land on pitiful **soil***

Preparation to receive starts with **ATTITUDE!**

ATTITUDE CHECK: If my attitude stinks, ask for forgiveness and refocus

RATIONALIZATION: Turn this button off!

“I deserve my feelings” – turn this off!

This is a no-excuse-time, no blaming time, no projecting time

Turn off rationalization and prepare your **heart** to *hear from God!*

CRITICAL SPIRIT: Turn this button off!

A critical spirit is the death nell for hearing from God

SOUL FIX: Soul fixed on God, not the problems of my life

A distracted soul cannot hear

Turn off your soul bantering!



How can I hear from God?

You enhance your chances of hearing by spending time with God

What I term, “getting in the Spirit”

There are no short cuts to this, no easy outs!

*Simply spend time with the One who can **CHANGE YOUR HEART!!***

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR SOIL

~

YOUR HEART!!