

## Jesus Explains the Parable of the Four Soils (Luke 8:11-15)

<sup>4</sup> And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

<sup>5</sup> "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

<sup>6</sup> "Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

<sup>7</sup> "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

<sup>8</sup> "But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, **let him hear!**"

<sup>9</sup> Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"

<sup>10</sup> And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

**Initial Observations**

- *The Sower Is the Same*
- *The Seed Is the Same*
- *The Sound Is the Same*
- *The Soil Is Different*

<sup>11</sup> "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

**1. The \_\_\_\_\_**

a. *Not the imperfect \_\_\_\_\_*

b. *But the perfect \_\_\_\_\_*

c. *And the different \_\_\_\_\_*

**2. Four Possible \_\_\_\_\_**

<sup>12</sup> "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

**a. \_\_\_\_\_ by the Devil**

- *They hear the Word*
- *The devil \_\_\_\_\_ it*
- *They cannot \_\_\_\_\_*
- *They are not \_\_\_\_\_*

<sup>13</sup> "But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

**b. \_\_\_\_\_ by Difficulty**

- *They hear the Word*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ with joy*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ maturity*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_*
- *They face \_\_\_\_\_*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_*

<sup>14</sup> "Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

**c. \_\_\_\_\_ by Desires**

- *They hear the Word*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ by CR&P*
- *They are \_\_\_\_\_*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ no fruit*

<sup>15</sup> "But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

**d. \_\_\_\_\_ with Endurance**

- *They hear the Word*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ it fast*
- *They \_\_\_\_\_ fruit*
- *With \_\_\_\_\_*

**Summary Statements:**

- **TWO FOCUSES:** *The Word (not just "the Gospel") and the response of those that hear it are the key focuses. The emphasis is not the messenger but the message and the response of those that hear the message. Ultimately we are responsible for how we respond to what we hear. The message is the same. The determining factor is the receiver's heart.*
- **CONVERSION & CONDUCT:** *The response deals with more than conversion. The expectation of stability, maturity and fruitfulness can only be made of believers (those that are saved). Maturity and fruitfulness occur over time. Most actions relate to what a person is doing (present tense), not a single response at a point in time.*
- **GOOD NEWS / BAD NEWS:** *Because this relates to how one is responding presently, It is possible to move from one level of soil to another – both directions (except to become unsaved again).*
- **ONE MEASURE:** *The focus is a person's ongoing response to the Word of God. One's life can be measured and summarized in how he/she is living or is not living by what the Word says.*
- **ESSENTIALS OF FRUITFULNESS:** *Fruitfulness requires listening to the Word of God, learning the Word of God, holding on to the Word of God, living by the Word in spite of certain difficulty. It takes depth, rejection of distraction, and patience in the midst of inevitable trouble that comes.*
- **Which soil are you? What choices and changes do you need to make to become fruitful or more fruitful?**