



Rocky Soil

Seed Sown In Rocky Soil. This soil is similar to the wayside. Instead of the seed being snatched away by Satan, it has no place to dig deep roots in the heart of this person because this person's heart is wounded and damaged with areas that are hard and inflexible to the change needed to be good soil. Because of this

at the first sign of persecution or trouble, this person falls away from faith because they have no ability to stand up against the crowd. They are the typical people pleaser.



Thorny Soil

The Seed That Is Choked Out Of Fruitfulness By Thorns. This heart is one that is in good enough shape that it produces a living plant that survives. Yet because of other priorities in it's life it never produces any fruit. It cares more about the basic mundane things of life, or focuses on getting rich, or places other desires above the desire to do what it was meant to do which was produce fruit. Since its priorities are out

of alignment, this seed never gets to the point to producing other seeds.



Good Soil

The Seed In Good Soil. This seed sprouts, grows and produces more seeds. It produces a harvest. It hears God's message to them, accepts that message and allows that message to grow and change them, and finally it takes that message and gives it away to others. It reproduces and it effects people all around them. They start to speak the message of God, (what

Jesus would say if He were standing right in front of them), and they start the principle of the parable of the sower once again. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I Am with you always, to the very end of the age'" (Matthew 28:16–20). It's our job to be in the world sowing the seed of the Gospel. If we want to create disciples, we have to be mindful of the various kinds of soil. If we desire to grow a bountiful crop, we need to spread as much seed as we possibly can, knowing that a lot of it isn't going to take root. Like Jesus, we're to sow the gospel as liberally as possible. If we try and guess which soil is most likely to support the message of the kingdom, we're going to get it wrong. We need to scatter the gospel as widely as we can. It's the only way to produce the kind of yield the Lord would like to see.



"That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came

and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear'" (Matthew 13:1–9).

"The Secrets Of The Kingdom Of Heaven Has Been Given To You"



In the middle of the Sower Parable, the disciples ask Jesus why He chooses to speak in parables: "He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have abundance.

Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand'" (Matthew 13:11–13). Whether they know it or not, some people are not prepared or willing to receive the message of the kingdom. Jesus shared the Gospel using stories and metaphors that even a child could understand, but because of a hardness of heart, many just couldn't grasp the significance. Paul addressed the issue in his letter to the 1 Corinthians 2:14: "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Jesus toured the countryside sharing truths about God's kingdom. This is a lot more difficult than one might imagine in a mostly uneducated Galilee region. He wasn't speaking to people who had any interest in sitting around a coffee shop all day discussing theoretical concepts—let alone the luxury of doing so. By teaching with parables, Jesus was able to explain abstract ideas in a way that people throughout Judea could relate to. Not only did this help them make a connection between their everyday lives

and spiritual truth, but it also gave these truths sticking power. You know that they thought about the parable of the sower during every planting season. Jesus didn't explain everything in complete detail—He expected His listeners to do some of the work. If He had filled in all the blanks for everyone, it wouldn't have had the same effect. One powerful thing about a parable is that the listener has to make the connection between the story and its truth. The "A-ha!" moment occurs when the hearer makes that connection. Thousands of years later, we're still turning over Christ's parables and discovering our own relationship to these spiritual truths.



"But Blessed Are Your Eyes Because They See..."

"Prophecy Is Fulfilled"

Psalm 78 kicks off with an interesting prophecy about the coming Messiah: **"My people, hear My teaching; listen to the words of My mouth. I will open My mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old"** (Psalm 78:1–2). Not only is it predicted that the

Christ would teach in prophecies, but Jesus also explains to the Disciples that the response of the many hearers was also foreseen when He quotes Isaiah 6:9-10. **Jesus Fulfills Prophecy; 'And he said, "Go and say to this people: You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them. Now Jesus speaks to His Disciples. "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."** (Matthew 13-17)

"Who Is The Farmer?"



The identity of the farmer in Jesus' parable is the question we haven't tackled yet. In context, Jesus is the farmer. He spent three years of His life sharing the message of the kingdom with varied results. When we see God as the sower, it's incredibly meaningful. It's wasteful for a farmer to throw seed away on soil that's not

going to produce, but the farmer is so hopeful that He's willing to do it anyway. Jesus doesn't differentiate between worthy and unworthy soil; He throws as much grace and Gospel seed as He can at us because He's just so consumed with a desire to see us be reconciled to Him.

"Ultimately, However, The Church Is The Sower"



"To The Broken It Is The Promise Of Restoration"

Ultimately, however, the church is the sower. We need to understand in this parable that when Jesus said that the sower or the planter takes God's Word to others, He was not talking about the Bible although the can be included in this process. You need to take off your modern thinking cap for a second and place yourself in the days and times that this was being spoken. There were no printing presses; there were no computers with Bible programs or online Bibles. The people Jesus was talking to were primarily illiterate and the only copies of the Scriptures were in the Temple and Synagogues. The Greek word used for the English term God's Word was

"Logos", which means **Spoken Message**. The seeds that we plant are the message of God to individual people. So what is the message of God? It is found in the Bible. It is God's heart towards that individual person. To the broken it is the promise of restoration, to the captive it is the message of freedom, to the sick it is the message of wholeness, and to the guilty it is the message of forgiveness. So when we "plant seeds" we are planting God's message into the hearts of people. It is the concept of us being the messengers giving an oral message directly from the King to one of the people the King loves.

"Understanding The Types Of Soil"



The Path Way Or The Wayside

Finally we need to understand the types of soil. Not so we can decide whether or not to plant the seed, but so we understand why not all seeds produce a harvest. There are 4 types of soil that we plant seeds into.

The Path Way Or The Wayside was the beaten path around the field. It is the ground that has been hardened and trampled on by the feet of people. This soil, or otherwise known as a

human heart, has been walked on until it has become hardened and impenetrable. These hearts have been hardened because of the years of being walked on by people. This seed falls on soil that is skeptical and cynical and those attitudes are birthed by Satan himself and it is snatched away due to those attitudes.