

Luke 8 v 4-15

Background: Jesus taught in parables; using familiar situations to help people understand God's kingdom. In this one, different types of soil represent the ways our hearts can respond to Jesus's word.



Read Luke 8 v 4-8 first

Read Luke 8 v 11-12

What does the seed represent?

What does the picture of seed falling on a path tell us about how human hearts sometimes respond to Jesus' words?

Read v6 and v13

What happens to the seed that falls on rocky ground? (v6)

What causes this person to stop following Jesus? (v13)

Read v7 and v14

What happens to the seed that grows among thorns? (v7)

What prevents this person from maturing in their faith? (v14)

Read v8 and v15

What happens to seed that grows in good soil? (v8)

What happens when someone hears, retains and acts upon the word of God? (v15)

What does the crop represent?

Our hearts can be like different types of soil at different times in our lives. Sometimes our heart is hard and we don't listen to God, other times we are hungry to learn. Which soil best represents your heart today?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are sowing the seed of your word in my heart. Please help me to listen to you and not get distracted by pressure from other people (like the seed in rocky ground) or by my current circumstances (like the seed growing up with thorns). Please let your word go deep into my heart and start to change me inside and out. Amen.

Luke 8 v 4-15

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.’

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.