

QUESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY

1. Tell your story. Describe a time when someone told you a story or you read a story that made an impact on you. How did it affect you?

2. What types of things can make our heart softer or harder toward spiritual truth?

3. Read the following passages and note what the Bible says about our hearts:
 - a) I Samuel 16:7
 - b) Proverbs 4:23
 - c) Jeremiah 17:9-10
 - d) Ezekiel 36:26
 - e) Matthew 22:37
 - f) Mark 12:30
 - g) Luke 6:43-45

4. What are some of the examples given in Scripture that describe the spiritual fruit produced by a true believer?

5. What practical application are you going to make from this week's message? (*Share your decision with another person.*)
 - I am going to read this passage again and examine my own heart to see where I find myself in the parable of the soils.
 - I am going to ask another believer if they see any areas in my life where my heart has become hardened to the things of God.
 - I am going to memorize Proverbs 4:23.

Cornerstone Church
Luke 8:4-15

July 23,2023
Study Series #034

The Parable of the Four Soils

I. Introduction

A. The Power of Parables

(See Judges 9:7-21; Isaiah 5:1-6; II Samuel 12:1-13)

B. The Practicality of Parables

(See II Timothy 4:13)

II. The Parable of the Four Soils

A. The Parable Taught

(See Luke 8:5-8; Matthew 13:3-8; Mark 4:3-8)

B. The Disciples Question Jesus

(See Luke 8:9; Mark 4:10; Matthew 13:10; Luke 8:9-10; Matthew 13:10-15; Mark 4:10-12; Isaiah 6:9; Mark 4:13)

C. The Seed of this Parable

(See Matthew 13:4; Matthew 3:19; Mark 4:4; Mark 4:14; Luke 8:5; Luke 8:11; Genesis 1:11; Romans 1:16; Galatians 1:13)

E. The Sower of This Parable

(See Matthew 13:3; Matthew 13:8; Mark 4:3; Mark 4:14;
Luke 8:5; John 4:35-38; I Corinthians 3:6)

III. The Four Soils

A. The Hard Soil

(See Luke 8:12; Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15; Proverbs 4:23)

B. The Shallow Soil

(See Luke 8:13; Mt 13:20-21; Mark 4:16-17; John 8:31-32)

C. The Crowded Soil

(See Luke 8:14; Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:18-19; Jeremiah 4:3)

D. The Good Soil

(See Luke 8:15; Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; I Peter 1:22-25;
I Thessalonians 2:13; Matthew 13:8; Romans 1:13; 15:25-28;
Colossians 1:10; Galatians 5:22-23; Hebrews 13:15)

III. Conclusion

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, or if you would like to talk with someone or have someone pray for you, please see the pastor after the service and he or one of our church leaders will be glad to speak with you.

Passage of Study

Luke 8:4-15

⁴ When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵ “The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. ⁸ Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.” As He said these things, He would call out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹ His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant. ¹⁰ And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky *soil are* those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Parallel Passages of Study

Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20

All quotations taken from the New American Standard unless otherwise noted. NASB. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers 1995. A free PDF of this note sheet is available: www.cssbchurch.org/sermons-2. © 2023.