

Seed Sower # 1

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about soil.

Read: Luke 8:4-15

Jesus taught by using every day experiences to illustrate eternal truths. His teaching method often utilized parables - stories with hidden meanings. His disciples were granted the privilege of hearing both the parable He told and the principles He taught. His public ministry was followed by private explanations that are now part of the biblical record. We not only have the parables, we also have the explanation. This lesson is on the varied kinds of soil upon which the seed is sown. Learn the hidden truths as you find the answers to these questions.

1. What is the soil referred to in this parable? (v.12)
2. What was the seed referred to in this parable? (v.11)
3. What are the four kinds of soils (hearts) where the seed was sown? What eventually happened to the seed when it fell on each kind of soil?

Two thousand years ago in Israel seeds were not planted in prepared soil as we do today. The seed was scattered and then the ploughing took place. So the sower was not being irresponsible by sowing on trampled ground where people walked across the field, or amongst young thorn bushes, or where there was hidden, rocky sub-soil. This was the norm.

4. What does it really mean to “hear”? (*Thought Question*) How would you explain this parable to children who have never been on a farm? What modern analogy would you use?

This parable tells us that we can expect different responses to the word of God. Some people will be hard to the message of the gospel. Some will be shallow. Some preoccupied. Others will be open and receptive to God. We should not take it personally when someone fails to blossom, although that does not mean that we will not feel disappointed.

5. What do you think Jesus meant by a “noble and good heart”? (v.15)
6. What soil best represents you five years ago? What soil best represents you now?
7. What help do you get from this parable about sharing your faith with others?

This parable also reminds us that we need to sow the word. To liberally throw it out! It involves risk. It is only after you sow, that you discover if a plant is going to grow well- even if the ground appears to be good. No farmer ever got rich by failing to sow his seeds because of the risk that some of them may not grow well. How do we sow? ...By living for Jesus. By sharing with people what He has done and is doing for us. By praying for people, that God the Holy Spirit will make them grow vigorously. Note: Jesus indicated that understanding this parable is limited to those who are His disciples (v. 10).

Pray together; thank the Lord for the privilege of knowing what His parables mean. Ask Him to help you use this knowledge for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

