

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Parable of the Soils

Luke 8: 1-15

As we begin chapter eight, Luke begins the story of Jesus' gradual path toward Jerusalem and the cross. In the opening account of this chapter Jesus tells a parable that has become one of the longest and best known, complete with explanation: the parable of the sower, or better, the parable of the soils.

I. The Elements

- A. The sower—an evangelist/teacher who proclaims God's Word
- B. The seed—the Word of God (the sower and the seed do not change)
- C. The soil—the quality and preparation of those who hear
- D. The birds—Satan who seeks to steal the Word from the heart
- E. The produce—the combination of God's Word & the type of soil

II. The Results

- A. The roadside: hard and stony hearts; the Word does not penetrate, satan steals it away and there is no benefit
- B. The rocky soil: the Word is received with joy but there is no root or moisture; initial faith is soon abandoned and promising growth dies away
- C. The thorny soil: the Word takes root but competes with thorns for nutrients; the cares of life dominate and spiritual development is choked out
- D. The good soil: rich, receptive, prepared and ready; the Word produces a harvest of wonderful growth and amazing increase

III. The Application

- A. The Word is not simply the Gospel initially presented, but the Word of God given to us at any time in our life. In other words, this parable has immediate application for everyone of us!
- B. A hardened heart, stubborn and self centered, fails to benefit from the life-giving Word; it bounces off like it was never heard.
- C. A rocky heart is not much better; there is a little room for penetration of the Word and initial responsiveness, but it is never truly embraced and taken to heart and soon it is forgotten and life is back to the normal misery
- D. Those who are taken up with worries and the concerns of this life like the sound of the Word, but it never has a chance to produce change in them because mundane issues choke it out.
- E. Only those who love the Word and are prepared and devoted to it find permanent change and lasting impact in their life; as a result they are fruitful and beneficial to others as well

Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and

Which kind of soil are you? Are you the same soil in every area of your life?

