## The Seed and the Soils

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



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Folk; Word of God

LEAD-IN: [Jesus] told them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went

out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and they sprang up immediately, because they had no depth of soil. But after the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. But others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times as much. The one who has ears, let

him hear."

(Matthew 13:3-9, NASB)

## LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## The Seed and the Soils

God has good news to tell – wonderful news that can

bless every life beyond imagination,

news that will literally transform

the entire world.

The news is

God's new Kingdom,

His glorious new relationship with

all our race and with every individual.

He longs for each of us to

accept and

enjoy this new relationship.

It is free, and it brings

untold wealth of

joy and blessing.

So He spreads the news everywhere,

to every mind and heart.

He is like a generous sower

scattering seed over all kinds of soil,

not wanting to miss a single spot

where the soil might bear fruit.

But some soil is too hard,

so the seed never penetrates it.

Some soil is too shallow for the seed to take root,

so the seed springs up quickly

but soon is withered by the hot sun.

Some soil is too thorny,

too cluttered with fruitless plants

that choke out the seed and

give it no chance to bear fruit.

But some soil is good.

It gives the seed room to take root, grow, and bear abundant fruit.

How are you receiving God's precious seed,

His wonderful news of unbounded life and joy?

What kind of soil is your mind and your heart?

Are you receiving God's seed with faith, giving it room to grow,

keeping your heart and mind weeded of competing, fruitless priorities?

Realize that we receive from God,

not everything His infinite love longs to give, but only what our hardened, shallow, cluttered hearts will allow.

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