

RESPOND

Assess your current reality. Which soil type best describes where your heart is right now? What tools might God be inviting you to consider using? What next step can you take over the next week to allow the proper tool to create a more fertile good soil ready to receive from the Lord?

Assess Where You Are

**“The Necessity of Good Soil”
Luke 8:4-15**

Luke 8:4-15 (NIV)

⁴While 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. ⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still 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.”

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He 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. ¹²Those 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. ¹³Those 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. ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵But 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.

DISCUSS

- As the seed was sowed, it was not the seed that differed, but instead the soil types that varied. Each soil type represents the hearts of the various people hearing the teachings from Jesus. What draws us to sometimes search for other outlets of truth?
- Jesus’s audience that day included His twelve disciples and the crowds of people representing every soil type presented in this parable. In your own words, describe what happens to the seed when planted in each soil type. Share examples of times your heart condition was a representation of the different soil types.
- When you consider the analogy to agriculture, the reality is all soil can become good soil. Using your past soil type stories shared and the example given, identify a “tool” that could have turned your unproductive soil good.
- Jesus desired for people to hear His word and respond in a way that allowed for crop production. What does it look like to multiply what we receive from the Lord? Why is important to remember during your interactions with others, that they also have different heart soil types?
- Large crowds continued to gather, but only few had fertile hearts ready to produce. How would it transform your life and the lives of those around you to have a heart ready for produce at all times?