

LUKE 8:4-15 *The Parable of the Sower*

INTRODUCTION

Jesus tells a story about a farmer scattering seed on different kinds of soil. The seed, he explains to his disciples, is God's Word, and the soil is the hearts of different people and how they receive it. What kind of soil is your heart? How do you respond to God's Word?

DISCUSSION

What kind of soil do plants grow best in?

EXPLANATION

- What happened to the seed that fell along the path and what does that mean? *It was stepped on and eaten by birds (the devil came and took the Word away from their hearts).*
- What happened to the seed that fell on the rock and what does that mean? *It grew but then died because it had no water (they believed for a while but then fell away when things got hard).*
- What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns and what does that mean? *It grew but was choked by the thorns (the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life were more important to them than the Word, so they fell away).*
- What happened to the seed that fell in good soil and what does that mean? *It grew and was very fruitful (the Word took root in their hearts and produced fruit in their lives).*

APPLICATION

It is God's Word when it takes root in our hearts, which saves us and makes us faithful followers of Jesus. But there are many ways we can respond that keep it from taking root and growing- fearfulness, worry, or other things we see as more important. Talk about circumstances or things that tend to crowd out God's Word in your heart. What does your life look like when your heart is good soil?

Memory VERSE

Romans 1:16a- "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (ESV)