

## Soiled for Greatness. Luke 8:4-15

<sup>4</sup> One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: <sup>5</sup> “A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. <sup>6</sup> Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked Him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand.’”

<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. <sup>12</sup> The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. <sup>13</sup> The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. <sup>14</sup> The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. <sup>15</sup> And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

### People can hear without **LISTENING**

v. 8b—When He had said this, He called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

v. 10—He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand’”

The seed=the **WORD** of God

v. 11 —This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

Central theme of GOD’S WORD= The Gospel message= Who God is and what He has done to save us from our sin and what we have become

1. God Loved and Created John 3:16, Genesis 1:1; 27, 1 John 4:16

2. Man Sinned Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23, 6:23

3. God Made a Way—**JESUS** 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, 1 Peter 2:22-25, John 14:6

4. We Respond—Responses to the Gospel

The seed along the Path=**PREVENTED** by the Devil

<sup>12</sup> *The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.*

V.13-Seed on the Rocks=No **ROOTS**

<sup>13</sup> *And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, welcome the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and depart in a time of testing.*

V.14-Seed among Thorns=gets **CHOKED** out

<sup>14</sup> *As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit.*

V.15-Seed on Good Soil=**HOLDS** on and **PRODUCES** fruit

<sup>15</sup> *But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who, having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, bear fruit.*

## **ARE YOU SOILED FOR GREATNESS?**

**CLINGING** to the Gospel

*if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

*"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9*

**BEARING** Fruit

- Do you have an undeniable love for God and others? Deut. 6:5; Matt 22:37-40
- Do you pray often and with vibrancy? Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:16-18
- Do you love God's Word and invest time reading it? 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 56:4; Ps. 199:105; Matt. 4:4
- Are you living an obedient lifestyle that includes sharing Jesus with others and helping them grow in faith? Matt. 28:18-20; James 1:22; John 14:23
- Are you serving the Lord in a church with your time, talents and treasures? 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:13; 1 Peter 4:10
- Are you seeing a manifestation of the Spirit in the way you live? Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:11
- Do you worship God like he is your treasure—extravagantly and sacrificially, with gratitude? Ps. 29:2; Ps. 100:2; Rom. 12:1