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Jesus is now heading out to tour other town and villages... He is at the height of his popularity with the people ...and is under condemnation of the religious...many of whom have decided he must die. **So Jesus changes tactics and begins to separate** out the serious from the curious and the antagonistic.

- He introduces a new way of teaching and presenting his messages to the crowds.... **PARABLES...** A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time... It is an indirect teaching and requires the hearer to investigate further to understand the real meaning of the story.
- So Only those who really want to understand what he is saying...will do the investigation to find out
- **He is using this method for several reasons...**

1. your faith develops as you search out meaning and understanding... and only the spiritually hungry will do this.

- **Why? Because Faith is born of the tension between the revealing of truth and the veiling of the truth... between some I get and some I don't...**
- **Your faith develops as you search out meaning and gain. understanding... and only the hungry spiritually will do this.**

2. And Faith is matured when I can trust God with what I understand and with what I don't!

3. the religious leaders had decided to kill him...so by confusing them in their understanding of his messages they would be delayed in their plans, until he was ready to be killed.

4. He wanted more time to teach and mature his apostles and disciples to carry on the message without him physically present....

5. It was an act of Grace for those who would refuse to hear now, but later would have ears to hear...

All the people that follow Jesus around... will hear what he says...but they not all will listen or take in what he says...

So once again we start with the crowd at the lake of Gallilee... So The story of the farmer was an accurate picture of the people's reaction to his teachings.

Luke 8:4 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: ⁵ "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. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ 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..

The curious and antagonistic did not believe Jesus' healing miracles, his power over nature, demons nor His teaching, as revealing of the Kingdom of God was now among them.

But those who had ears to hear would seek to understand for they want to know and understand.

We will Notice the problem is not with the seed, or with things or with people...the problem is with the soil or the fieldthe Heart

The following analogies are in the parable:

- 1. The Farmer** stands for Jesus.
- 2. The seed** is the words of Jesus.
- 3. The human heart** is the field or soil where the seed is planted

4. Notice that when the seed is sown to four kinds of hearts ... footpath...Rocky...Thorny...Fertile
5. also Anyone can be any soil at a given time...
6. they all lived in an agrarian society the story is simple...
7. Again Outsiders see no revealing of the Kingdom of God in Jesus' healing miracles, his power over nature, demons nor His teaching, and in time his death, his resurrection
8. But the insiders listen and seek to understand for their ears are open to learn...

Luke 8: ⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 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.'

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. ¹² 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.

Today we will examine two of the four Heart soils...Footpath heart

¹² 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.

1. **“ The Foot Path Heart”** seed lands on it but the heart receives it not as it see's nothing special about it..."in one ear and out the other" they do not receive God's truth because they are not ready for it...or outright reject it
- These persons do not suffer from a thick skull but a hard heart.
 - They are the unbelievers....
 - Paull describes them this way:

Eph 4: ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

- **They hear the word but it sits on top of the heart...and easily picked away by the birds... the result they wander far from the life God offers...**
- **Their darkness is the result of Bad life experiences and sin...which leaves them with a scar tissue hardened heart ...**
- **the birds of trauma, disappointments, unfulfilled expectations, failure, rejection, abuse, loss .. a life of being deceived by the sin of others perpetrated against them and their own sin which deceives them into thinking sin is a solution to their problems. All of which hardens their heart...**
- **they have become like Hebrews 3: 13 says**

Hebrews 3:13 **deceived by sin** and **hardened** against God.

2) There are other footpath hardened hearts...who are believers..

- **Now a foot-path heart does not mean it cannot have fertile places. Footpaths can run alongside fertile soil...**
- **followers of Jesus can have places in their hearts that are hardened to the seed of word of God...**
- **Peter is a perfect example**
- ***Peters heart was fertile soil when he fully received Jesus as being the Messiah***

NLT Matt 16:5 Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

*¹⁷ Jesus replied, “**You are blessed**, Simon son of John, because my Father*

in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

- Peter received this word from God the Father and fully believed it in his heart...
- **And he was blessed...**that means value is added to you...not worth...value which means you increase your ability and capability to be used by God...
- Your wisdom grows...your understanding goes deeper ... your perspective broadens....
- Jesus and your relationship becomes more intimate. You become closer
- Yet Peter almost immediately reveals a hardened foot path in his heart some other seed sown by Jesus
- **Why? it did not meet his expectations...of how he thought Jesus should do Jesus...**

Matthew 16:21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. 22 But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" 23 Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.

- **How can this be? Because our hearts can be receptive sometimes...and also hard at other times!**
- *His heart was hard in that place and rejected Jesus word...it did not fit with the way he thought Jesus should do things... IT did not fit his idea of how the Messiah should be the Messiah...*
- *Peter rejected the word and the devil took it away...*

- *Just like we struggle sometimes when Jesus does Jesus in our lives!!*
- *When he speaks words ...Scripture we don't want to receive !*
- Whenever we are hard...The Holy Spirit has to plow the ground so the seed can be received and take root...
- **And wherever we are soft and receptive...blessing comes value is added..**
- **The great work the Holy Spirit does on our heart when we are receptive becomes our gift to ourselves and everyone Else**
- The antidote for the hardened footpaths in our heart...

The key verse is Luke 8:8.... *he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."*

- The word is hear and listen which appears 16 times in this Gospel...
- Hear means to reflect upon, or listen carefully to understanding only comes after we receive the word into our heart...

Lets start today by identifying a footpath and praying for your heart to soften and so you can receive by digging up the evil and junk ...so the hard ground become soft...

End

- understand and receive
- Of all the people that follow Jesus around...they all will hear what he says...but they not all will listen or take in what he says...
- Understanding changes and deepens over time and investigation...our experiences will cause us to reexamine God's word...as it confronts our expectations and what we understood before....

Matthew 4:3 During that time the devil^[a] came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

Listen Jesus ...if you're the son of God...you should expect God to not make you hunger...or suffer...and since he is...if you have the same power feed your self...

Jesus response need to be our response..

⁴ But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- **The Holy Spirit led sent me into the desert and did not provide food...**
- **My need, my feelings, my loses, my lacks, does not determine whether if follow the word of God...**
- **I will stay here until he brings me out ... his word is my food...**

Or John 6:55 my flesh is **true food, and my blood is true drink.**

Eat all of me...

Be receptive!!!! Pray End

The key verse is Luke 8:8.... *he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”*

- **The word is hear and listen which appears 16 times in this Gospel...**
 - **Hear means to reflect upon, or listen carefully to understand and receive and**
 - **Of all the people that follow Jesus around...they all will hear what he says...but they not all will listen or take in what he says...**
 - **Understanding changes and deepens over time and investigation...our experiences will cause us to reexamine God’s word...as it confronts our expectations and what we understood before....**
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- **The footpath soil** is the hardened **heart**. ... the seed finds no where to penetrate so is easily picked off , swept off, blown away, eaten by birds ... I.e. Religious leaders.. like the enemy Satan

Is there any areas in your life where the word of God touches you or moves you... but the seed finds no where to really penetrate because your heart has been hardened by disappointment? Sin? Unforgiveness ?

The great work the Holy Spirit does on our heart when we are receptive becomes our gift to everyone Else

So the seed is easily picked off , blown away, eaten by birds?

Lets start today by praying for your heart to soften and so you can receive by digging up the evil and junk ..so the hard ground become soft...

James 1:21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

End

- **If you know these are the ways the word is received...you can readily pick out where you or someone is in there reception or lack of to Jesus words...**
- **Is there any areas that are not producing what we would like them to produce? How deep is the seed of God's word planted in that area?**

End

03222020 The Good Soil....Good Morning His Place say hi to someone you don't know...that would be weird...cause they are in your house...well our first week of homeschooling is completed...found out fourth grade math way over my head...but killed the first grade reading assignments...also discovered lack of Patience is a serious drawback to my teaching skills...but so glad you all joined us this morning and I pray this word will encourage challenge and be refreshing to you...

...as we continue our study of Jesus in his own words... One of the ways We are changed in our walk with God, is through a paradigm shift embracing life, circumstances, trials, morality...from the Jesus perspective

Paul says it this way...

1CO 13:¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

- **That statement is called a paradigm...a paradigm is a way of seeing and thinking about reality...it is the lens, the filter through which we interpret the data and information of our lives...**

Luke 12:12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

- **verse 12 is called A paradigm shift....a paradigm shift is when we are able to break out of an old pattern of seeing and thinking into something new.**
- **Paul said ...When he was a child his parents were responsible for his growth and teaching him how to view life.... but now that he is a man...he is responsible for his views and actions**
- **This usually happens when the foundation of how we feel, think of see something is shaken by a whole new way of looking at life. Sometimes simply called an “aha” when some truth comes into focus that was previously not seen...or a best was blurred...**

- Paul says Now it is his responsibility to learn and grow...a paradigm shift..
- When you follow Jesus you are in for whole lot of paradigm shifts...As we will see today Jesus states a spiritual paradigm... and that is this...
- that the receiving (believing) of the words of Jesus by an individual can be measured by the response of that individual to life's circumstances...in other words inner beliefs will match exterior actions...

***Spiritual maturity is directly tied to emotional maturity... ***Our lives change in proportion to the connection between our beliefs and our actions..... theology and psychology are connected...where God meets humanity...what you truly believe will be manifest in your responses to your circumstances...

Change does not start with doing something new...it starts with believing something new...*Spirituality means nothing unless it is lived out in your humanity...*

Jesus explains this process to his disciples by the example of the four ways his word is received by people...

Let's pick up the narrative..

Luke 8:4 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:

- 6. but first a little background...**Up unto this time Jesus used direct language when teaching the people about himself and the Kingdom of God...but now he changes his approach...using a new method using parables when preaching in public...
Jesus taught the people by telling stories called parables, using familiar scenes to explain spiritual truths.
7. A parable is a story with a double meaning...one is plain and the other concealed...It is hidden in plain sight...
8. It is an indirect teaching and requires the hearer to investigate further to understand the real meaning of the story.
9. A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time...
10. For faith is born of the tension between the revealing of truth and the veiling of the truth...what do I believe???
11. Why? Faith is nourished fed or grows by the search for understanding...
12. This method of teaching compels the listener to think. It conceals the truth from those who are too stubborn or prejudiced to hear what is being taught.
13. He used this method for a number of reasons...

1. The religious leaders had decided to kill him...so he must take some of the heat off...by confusing them in their understanding of his message to delay them until he his apostles were ready to carry on...and he was ready to by killed...
2. And Jesus speaking in parables was actually an act of grace to those listening to him. If they refused to listen to him and judgment would be less severe then if they understood more...
3. It was a method to separate sincere seekers and followers from those who are looky loos... curious to see what miracle Jesus would do next not wanting to look too deeply into Jesus' words. they were seekers so he shares...

Luke 12:5 “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. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ 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.”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 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.’^[b]

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

The following analogies are in the parable:

The Farmer stands for God... The seed is the word of God.

The foot path is the hardened ground... well travel compacted earth from much traffic...the Hardened hearer.

The Rocky soil is the unstable hearer....The thorny ground is the ground nourishing many plants.. hearer who allows the seeds of the cares, riches and pleasures of life to choke out the word.

The good soil is the faithful hearer who bears fruit... because the word matures in them to produce fruit... and a Harvest

The Devil is the one who steals, kills and destroys the word planted

Notice...the Sower Scatters seed on the soil ...

- Seed was planted by hand. As the farmer walked across the field, he threw handfuls of seed onto the ground from a large bag slung across his shoulders.
- The plants did not always grow in neat rows as they do with today's machine planting. ...No matter how skillful, no farmer could keep some of his seed from falling on the footpath, from being scattered among rocks and thorns, or from being carried off by the wind.But enough would fall on good ground to ensure the harvest.

Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people are present

Notice the seed is sown to all..

1) "Foot Path" people, the seed falls on them but is not received.. his teaching and methods do not fit into their preconceived ideas and beliefs, so they reject it. this was the case for many of the religious leaders, They suffer from the sin of pride...

These persons do not suffer from a thick skull but a hard heart. Hear but reject and it is stolen from them

They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away

1. Now path people are not necessarily that way all the time...even followers of Jesus can have times of being path...hard hearted...
2. **Pride is inordinate esteem of oneself...no need to be saved or healed....were already alright...**
3. **It is inordinate because it is contrary to the truth.**
4. They Hear but do not take it into their heart... and it is easily stolen from them

5. The road or path soil shows that Satan is a great danger to those who hear indifferently...
6. And often causes them to oppose the Kingdom...religious leaders, Herod Pilate
7. They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away
8. **We are never acting more satanically than when we act in pride.**

2) The rocky heart,

¹³ *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. **like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, their hearts receptive but shallow. there are Rocks under the thin covering of soil...**hard places in them... They follow as long as they are happy...honeymoon followers... but ready to break up when trouble comes...*

- **They receive Joyfully but when the good times of Joy are over and the times of Tribulation and persecution the plant shrivels**
- **Like a firework...shine bright for a short while...** The Difference Between Loving God's Blessings and Loving God is demonstrated in turbulent times!!
- examples: Fall away when faith is challenged... John the Baptist in Prison and Peter protesting he would not deny Jesus..
 - **The antidote... one's faith must develop a good deep broad root system to endure trials and persecution...**

3) "Thorny soil" people, soil is receptive...but it nourishes many plants it is so weed ridden that there is not enough nourishment for the seed and it is starved and suffocated...

Luke 12:14 *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.*

- **This is the divided heart... competing passions... The problem is focus... they are the spiritual ADDers ...their attention get easily drawn away from the words of God and his kingdom and is consumed with the worlds kingdom.**
- **Now, every gardener knows that the weeds grow with a speed and a strength that few good seeds can equal.** The result is that weeds are so strong that they choke the life out of the seed, and it never matures, while the weeds flourish and produce more weeds.

They have three hindrances to being rooted in the word of God...

A. Cares or Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs or lacks of the present and/or the possible fear of loss in the future both of which expend great emotional and mental energy

- Worry is corrosive it eats away our joy, contentment and peace...while it nourishes fear...and it is negative energy...wearing us out... I am so stressed...I just want to sleep...I am so tired ...I have no energy to do anything...I have no patience...I am so busy... **I am burned out... These are all symptoms of A preoccupation with the worries of life...**
- **The worries of the world choke out our hope and security in God...we never learn to stand fast, to take thoughts captive...we remain immature never growing out of a child's maturity level...where everything is the biggest thing...**
- **B. Deceitfulness of wealth.... Wealth tends to create the illusion of safety and security because it has the capacity to insulate those who have wealth from many of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they need the need for the gospel.**
- This type of weed chokes out the Word by placing one's confidence and trust in their possessions rather than God
- **The problem is it is temporary relief... illness, disease, economic change, war...old age...prove its insulating power has limits...**
- **Only God's word true forever in all situations**

3) Pleasures of this life..The follower of Jesus is not denied pleasures. The phrase "pleasures " does not indicate that the Jesus follower is to have no pleasure ... It is not sin for the Christian to enjoy life.

- **The problem is when our Desires for things and the corresponding chasing after them...the time energy and resources...takes so much out of us that the word of God is not considered a priority...**
- Overcome by the lure of materialism; leave no room in their lives for God.
- most people have a lengthy "want" list ...As soon as they acquire this...they want that....**At best the thorny soil person remains an immature juvenile plant... chasing after that which is temporary**

*****Finally we come to the good soil, the responsive heart, the open heart**

Luke 12: 15 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.

- **The good soil ... is not merely soil of sufficient quality and depth to receive the seed...but is committed to the seed to grow it.. into maturity where it produces a harvest....**the soil now works with the seed to mature the plant so that it produces life...fruit and drops more seed. A Harvest
- Prior to receiving the seed...it is soil used for many different plants or just barren but now **There is a change of purpose for the soil ... produce fruit !**
- Only soil that produces fruit pleases the Father. Has the Word of God affected you? The moral of the story: Be the right soil

The four soils represent four different ways people respond to God's message. Usually we think that Jesus was talking about **four different kinds of people. But he is also talking about: **Different times or phases in a person's life....How we willingly apply God's message/seed to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others.****

- **For example, you may be open to God about your future ...but closed to his word concerning how you prioritize spending your money.**
- **You may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship ...but respond like thorny soil to his demand to not worry...be content**
- **Good soil produces in varying degrees...which can and must be seen...it is the indicator of good soil...a crop is produced...**
- **Notice that the amount of seeds is not the indicator of how good the soil is... one seed has the capacity to produce..in good soil**
- **For a plant to produce it has to sprout out of the soil ...it must mature...and mature plants attract others to them as they are full of fruit...**
- **one seed has the capacity to produce..Someone who possess a little seed of knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge**

Use the toothpaste example...if I call myself toothpaste container...then when I am squeezed Toothpaste should come out! If I call myself a Christian when I am squeezed...Christian stuff should come out of me...

**Because what come out of us is what is really inside of us ...
these times like all times will change...but is his word is peace and life
throughout all times and all time...
It reveals and exposes our heart...and mind... what is being exposed?
end**

*¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.*

1. **“Rocky Heart people, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, their hearts receptive but shallow. Rocks under the soil...hard places in them...**

¹³ *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.*

They receive Joyfully but when the good times of Joy are over and the times of troubles and temptation hit... the faith in God's word plant shrivels ...for the roots are not deep enough

- **Fall away when faith is challenged...by temptation**

- **The Temptation weed**

1Cor 10:13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

1. **Temptation seeds are common to everyone...our hearts are more receptive to some than others...but the seed variety is common...**

2. **The Temptation plant seed sprouts up fast but its life span is limited...each temptation plant only lives so long...Says God!**

3. **For God says The temptation weed will not be able to outlast our ability to stand against it...**

4. **And God will show us a way out of the presence of the temptation so we can survive (endure) or outlive temptation plant**

5. **So I have to believe the out is giving me...will work...or I will try to stand and face it in my own thinking and be overcome!**

But Jesus knows failing in one's own strength is part of growing our faith in Jesus

- **The antidote to rocky faith... one's faith roots must continually grow deeper in the heart to endure stronger temptations...this goes for trials also...**

Possibly end

6. **“Thorn heart” people, The soil of our heart is receptive...but the competition with other plants is fierce**

Luke 8:14 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..

- **There are so many other plants also seeded in the Heart... the many cares or worry plants, the many and varied financial concerns plants, and so many pleasure-seeking plant seeds (which spring up fast but don't last...)**
- **So there is not enough room for the word of God plant to spread it's roots and gain a firm foothold.... and is so crowded out for heart soil by the competition that it never matures to produce fruit.**
- **With new worry plant seeds, new pleasure plant seeds and money worry seeds seeking to penetrate the heart soil...**
- **Be careful what you let get planted in your heart...watch your thoughts**
- **Keep nurturing the word planted in us so that its roots grow deep .**
- **The shovel for these plants is worry...it digs the hole in the heart to plant the seeds..**

NLT MT 6: 31 “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. ³³ *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,* and he will give you everything you need. ³⁴ “So don't worry about

tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.

- **At best the thorn patch heart... remains an immature juvenile plant...**
- **Because these other plants are really weeds and fail to produce the wonderful fruit God wants..**
- **What fruit does the plant of worrying about tomorrow produce?**
-

Notice the problem is not with the seed, or with things or with people...the problem is with the soil...nourish God's word through obedience...and he will give you all that you need...and often many wants...

4) "Good Heart" people, in contrast to all the other groups, listened to and followed Jesus no matter what the cost. He is first...

1. Those with a good heart or receptive soil
2. Are those who hear the word receive the seed
3. **Retain, keep it, nourish it...weed out that which competes with it**
4. Which means to persevere in keeping and hearing...so it produces a crop...

The four heart soils represent four different ways people respond to God's word.

1. It is not just about **four different kinds of people.**
2. **Its about his kids who apply God's word to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others. For example,**
 - you may be open to God about your future, but closed concerning how we spend your money.
 - You may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship

- but respond like rocky soil to his demand to serve people in need.
- **Good soil produces in varying degrees...which can and must be seen...it is the indicator of good soil...a crop is produced...**
- **Notice that the amount is not the indicator of how good the soil is...**
- **Produce is seen...and fruitlessness is seen also...**

But that it produces more than what was put in....

¹⁵ *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.*

- **It multiplies through production of itself**
- **It is not how much you know**
- **It is how much you use of what you know...**
- **Someone who possess a little knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge**

What your life produces is what the world sees...the world sees Jesus through the fruit of our lives...

Is there any areas that are not producing?

There are only a couple of reasons...

The word is rejected...path soil****

The word is on **rocky soil... hard place in the heart..where trials and trouble have thwarte your faith..**

Thorn soil...to many competing things worry, greed, things ...things of this world choking out the things of the Kingdom making one unfruitful in the Kingdom...

If we don't understand this...we will never get the deeper things of God...

MK 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"

MK 4:24 "Consider carefully what you hear," he continued. "With the measure you use, it will be measured to you--and even more. ²⁵ Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him."

- **The word measure means amount or quantity...**
- **This verse simply means that we are responsible to use well what we learn... How much we know is not nearly as important as what we do with that knowledge.**
- Human ears hear many sounds, but there is a deeper kind of listening with the mind and heart that is necessary in order to gain spiritual understanding from Jesus' words.
- **If we do not apply what we learn we will lose it...we will forget...that is a natural principle as well as a spiritual principle... when you do not exercise you lose muscle tone...ever notice that when you spend time in the word or consistent prayer you are calmer...and when you don't you aren't!**
- **The light of Jesus' truth is revealed to us, not hidden. But we may not be able to see or to use all of that truth right now. Only as we put God's teachings into practice will we understand and see more of the truth.**
- **The truth is clear, but our ability to understand is imperfect. As we obey, we will sharpen our vision and increase our understanding**

END

- **When you talk with people about God, be aware that they will not understand if they are not yet ready for whatever reason**
- **Hear but reject and it is stolen from them...**

and their antidote is summed up in this story

*LK 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against **all kinds of greed** (the desire for things); a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (**the lie wealth equals life**)*

*LK 12:16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of **a certain rich man** (he already has plenty) produced a good crop.(he received more) ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' (**he worries...He needs more, what he has is not enough**)*

*LK 12:18 "Then **he** said, 'This is what **I'll** do. I will tear down my **barns** and build bigger ones, and there I will store all **my** grain and **my** goods. ¹⁹ And **I'll** say to **myself**, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '*

- **he already has barns...but must build bigger ones...so I wont have to worry**
- **so I can depend on them for many years...deceitfulness of wealth**

- **so I can take life easy...eat drink and be merry...so I can do and have all the things I want**

now God's perspective on his idea...

LK 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

- **He thought he worried about the right things...his wealth**
- **He was deceived ...he thought his life was secure because of things...**
- **Wealth nor things were the problem...they are neutral in the story... it was his attitude toward them...it was all for him...**
- **He had plenty for himself... he already had barns...but instead of generosity toward God as demonstrated by helping others...he built more for to store for himself**
- **Thinking he would live a long, long time to enjoy the pleasures he could expend the money on.**

He neglected to realize his life and possessions are in the hands of God...all of it all the time...and God took it over...

LK 12:21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

- **How will it be? you worry and gather for yourself and neglect others...**
- **You will worry and gather but not enjoy...store but not keep...simple..**

God speaks to this type of person in the Old Testament also..

*HAG 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse *with holes* in it."*

- **All three are hindrances to the development of the Word in a human heart and are aspects of worldliness,...concentrating and focusing our attention on our world rather than on the Kingdom of God which is here and is to come.....**
 - **If God is not first...whatever is will ultimately prove unsatisfactory...for it is by nature transitory and deceitful... Fraudulent... untrustworthy**
- **How may I serve you Lord and serve your Kingdom today...and thank you for taking care of me and mine...ought to be our morning prayer...**

B. Deceitfulness of wealth....or the delight in riches...is the opposite of the worries of Life...

- **One has plenty and so is semi-contented and gives little thought and experiences little need of the words of Jesus or thought of the Kingdom to come..**

- The temptation in wealth is to depend on it for all life's issues and not God
- It can create An attitude of self sufficiency and independence...
- You see money insulates from most of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they the need for the gospel.
- They can take care of themselves, the gospel with its self sacrifice, heartfelt generosity does not appeal to them.

MK 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him.

"Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

MK 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.

- If I meet that requirement ..are you going to listen to me...

¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.' "

MK 10:20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

MK 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

MK 10:22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

MK 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

- **He did good things...morally...but he was deceived by his riches...how? He would not give up riches that he ultimately cant keep...for riches that he could never lose..**
- **He would not follow Jesus at the cost of his *present* material possessions and wealth though Jesus guaranteed him greater riches if he did in heaven...but his temporary contentment blinded him...**
 - **Why? In his heart he felt greater allegiance to his current comfort...**
 - **He had more faith in them than the words of Jesus...**

C. The desires for other things...

*¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the *desires for other things* come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful*

- **The soil that receives the word also is eager to receives things..**
- **Relationship with Jesus and relationship with things ...and the corresponding chasing after them...**
- **takes so much time that the word of God is never deepened nor the relationship developed...**

- **Jesus becomes the genie God...** These people have a lengthy “want” list **they want Jesus to help them get it.....**
 - As soon as they acquire this...they want that....
- these three draw our nourishment away from God and his kingdom and try to derive or sustenance from the world.

They have three hindrances to being rooted in the word of God...

1) Worries of Life 2) the deceitfulness of wealth 3) the desires for other things

A. Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs of the present and/or the possible fear of losses in the future both of which require the expenditure of great emotional and mental energy...

- **Greatly depleting our joy, and contentment and peace...wearing us out...we are so wrapped up in the supposed never ending concerns of our little world ...we have no time or energy for the things of God.**
- the woe is me syndrome...I just want to rest...I am too tired to pray
- I have no energy for anything else...I have no patience...
- I am so busy...Why wont God help me, I believe in him...
- I can't its to hard...
- No matter how much I sleep...I am still tired...I am burned out...

A preoccupation with the worries of life...the damage is

9. **The footpath soil** is the hardened **heart**. ... the seed finds no where to penetrate so is easily picked off , swept off, blown away, eaten by birds ... I.e. Religious leaders.. like the enemy Satan
10. **The Rocky soil** is the unstable heart. ... committed flourishes while the sun shines in the good times but has no depth to its roots to nourish it with life giving water when the scorching heat of come...and quickly succumbs to temptation...
11. **The Thorn filled soil** is the heart receives the seed, and it grows, but there others things planted and nourished there also, cares and worries of life, riches and pleasures, and these competing affections...suck the nutrients that keep the plant from maturing and producing fruit/seed
12. **The good soil** is the receptive heart, a heart that is honest.. who tend the soil of their heart, clinging to the word attach themselves to it...and patiently produce the fruit of the seed.... is planted grows and produces
13. The birds of the air are the evil ones.
14. The sun's heat is persecution and tribulation.
15. The thorns are the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.

16. The variable yields are the variable effectiveness of Christians in bearing fruit.

- **Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people are present**

end

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The key verse is verse 9...

MK 4:9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- **The word is hear or listen which appears 13 times in this chapter...**
- **Hear means to reflect upon, or listen carefully to understand and receive and apply**
- **...**
- **Of all the groups that follow Jesus around...they all will hear what he says...but they all do not listen or take in what he says...**
- **only those who are truly interested to know and follow will get what he says for he will disguise his messages in such a way that it requires further investigation to understand them...in fact that is what all the Bible does to a degree...**

So once again we start with the crowd...he goes to the Lake of Galilee again...

MK 4:1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

Jesus had prepared for this situation previously...before he went up on the mountain and called his apostles...

MK 3:7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed.⁸ When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon.⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him.

- Jesus always prepares us for the future... they did not use the boat then...but it was prepared...
- I wonder if the disciples after preparing that boat...then Jesus leaves without using it...felt that was a waste of time...but no nothing God has us do is a waste of time...even though it seems sometimes that it was...

Back to chapter 4

MK 4: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

MK 4:9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." MK 4:10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that,

*" they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" "*

Outsiders see no revealing of the Kingdom of God in Jesus' healing miracles, his power over nature, and the spiritual. his teaching, and in time his death, his resurrection

7. The story of the sower was an accurate picture of the people's reaction to the rest of his teachings.

8. For the secret is revealed to those who respond to Jesus by hearing and following.

Let's examine briefly the parable...

MK 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

end

