

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹ That same day JESUS went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around HIM that HE got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then HE told them many things in parables, saying: “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. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since he has not root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²² The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Memory Verse: Matthew 13:23

“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

THE DIRTIEST STORY IN THE BIBLE

THE STORY IN CONTEXT

BREAKING UP THE DIRT

- ❶ Hard soil represents a _____ mind

- ❷ Rocky soil represents a _____ mind

- ❸ Thorny soil represents a _____ mind

- ❹ Good soil represents a _____ mind

SOWING THE SEED

GOD’S CROP

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

Getting Started

- 1) What was your attitude/mind-set when you entered worship this week? What was it when you left worship? What most contributed to that change?
- 2) What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find most helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.

Into the Bible

- 3) Read Genesis 25:19-34. Describe Esau and Jacob. What was so important to Esau that he would give up his inheritance? What does that tell you about Esau? What does Jacob's pursuit of the inheritance tell you about him?
- 4) Read Romans 8:1-11. What is the source of condemnation? How does JESUS put an end to that? What is the evidence of belonging to CHRIST? What is the blessing of living in CHRIST?

- 5) Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Why does GOD scatter the "seed" so widely and with seeming recklessness? What groups does JESUS describe in the Parable of the Sower? What is the seed that is sown? What would be JESUS' goal in telling this story?

Application to Life

- 6) What people specifically can you think of that are like the different types soil in this parable? What things today are like the birds? The rocks? The thorns? Of these four soils, which are you most like?
- 7) What are the qualities of good soil? How can a person improve the soil that is their life so that it might produce a good crop? Which of these things are you doing?
- 8) How is the seed a good description for the Kingdom of GOD? What does it mean to produce a crop? In what ways are you producing a crop? How large a crop are you producing? What might you do to produce more?
- 9) What do you sense GOD is saying to you based on this study?