

August 5, 2018

The Parable of the Sower Series 3

Title: De-Rocking The Soil

Text: Matthew 13: 3-9, 20-21 ³“Then he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.’ . . . 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. ²¹But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.” (NIV)

Intro: Remember that the soil types represent different heart conditions. Good soil is a heart that has accepted revealed truth from God and is ready for more.

I. A rock is **foreign** matter that will not allow a solid spiritual root system to develop. A rock in our hearts can be defined as any religious system, sin pattern, competing ideology, or competing relationship that takes up space in our hearts and will take precedence over revealed truth from God if you are forced to make a choice between the two.

A. Hard times and persecution will **reveal** whether or not you have a rocky heart. If you refuse to submit to God’s Word in these situations ask yourself “why” and you will reveal your rocky areas.

B. Our minds must be **renewed** by replacing the old systems with God’s Word.

Ephesians 4:20-24 ²⁰“You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be

made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (NIV)

Philippians 4:6-7 ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

II. How do we **strengthen** our root base?

A. Get **rid** of anything in our heart that competes with God’s Word.

James 1:21 “Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” (NIV)

B. **Submit** to having accountability relationships in our life with other believers.

Colossians 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”

C. **Devote** yourself to studying and memorizing God’s Word.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (NIV)