

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 8

The Parable of the Soils

The Parable of the Soils

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective This lesson will cause the students to look at their response to God's Word through the parable of the soils.

Key Verses

Luke 8:4-15—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20 (Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Psalm 119:140

"Your word *is* very pure;
Therefore Your servant loves it."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Hebrews 11:1.

Take some of the seeds on your cart and put them in various places (on the carpet, on a desk, etc.). Then put one in the cup of soil on your cart. Ask the class which seed will grow the best.

In today's story, Jesus will use a similar example to talk about how we respond to the Word of God.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

The last couple of weeks, we looked at some of the things Jesus did. Today, we will look at something He said. Specifically, we will be looking at one of His parables. A parable is a made-up story that Jesus would use to show us a spiritual truth. Today's parable is called the parable of the soils. Jesus told the story of a farmer who went out to spread some seed. Some of the seed fell out of his bag and along the path, where some birds took it away. Some of the seed fell on rocky soil and grew for a little bit, but eventually it died due to lack of moisture. More seed fell on thorny soil. These seeds also began to grow, but then the thorns choked them and they died as well. Lastly, some of the seed fell on good soil and produced lots of fruit. Later, one of the disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable. Jesus told them that the seed represented the Word of God. The seeds that fell on the path are people who, when they hear the Word of God, Satan takes the Word away and it never gets a chance to settle in their lives. The rocky soil stands for those who, when they hear God's Word, at first respond with joy and excitement. However, they had no roots, so when temptations come, they fall away. The third soil represent those who hear the Word and begin to grow, but the things of the world keep them from ever reaching full maturity. Finally, the fourth soil is those who hear God's Word, obey, and become mature.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

In today's story, Jesus uses a parable to show us a spiritual truth. These parables can be compared to stories we tell today, such as the story of the tortoise and the hare. That story uses the fictional tale of a turtle and rabbit in a race to make a point: slow and steady wins the race. Jesus used parables much in the same way to demonstrate spiritual reality.

When we read the parable of the soils, we are supposed to critique our own lives to see which of these categories we fall into. How do we respond when we hear the Word of God? The first soil is the soil of outright rejection. These are the people who have no desire to be a Christian. The minute they hear the name of Jesus, they are uninterested or angry.

The second group hears about Jesus, and at first they are happy. They respond with excitement and enthusiasm, but it all has no root. They do not settle firmly into a life of Scripture reading, prayer, and church involvement, and so when temptations and difficulties come, they fall away.

LOOK (Continued)

The third soil, much like the second soil, has a good start and those who fall in that category might see some growth at first. However, surrounded by the cares of the world, they choose the world instead of God. They would rather have money, power, and possessions than live a life that honors God.

The final soil is the good soil. These are believers who hear the Word, believe it, obey it, and grow. Their faith and love for God increases over time and they mature into strong believers. The goal of this story is for anyone who finds that they are currently one of the other three kinds of soil should seek to be like the good soil. That means responding to the Word of God with faith rather than unbelief or doubt. It requires developing firm roots in their walk with the Lord. It involves avoiding surrounding themselves with the things of the world. Most importantly, a person who is “good soil” is someone who loves the Word of God. Therefore, if we want to be good soil, we need to read, believe, obey, and love all that God says to us in the Bible. While many people think the Bible is hard to read or boring, many times, the more people read it, the more they understand and come to love God’s Word.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Psalm 119:140.

Review with the class the four soils and who they represent. Ask how we can be like the good soil and love the Word of God.

Pray: Thank the Lord for His Word. Ask Him to make you all good soil and give you a love for His Word.

Parent Question: Read Psalm 119:9-24 with your family and talk about what these verses say about the Word of God.

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 8:4-15 by David Guzik

2. ([Luk 8:4-8](#)) The parable of the soils.

And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- a. **He spoke by a parable:** The word **parable** comes from the idea of "to set along side." As Jesus used parables, it means to set a spiritual truth along side a daily truth of living.
- b. **A sower went out to sow his seed:** In this parable, Jesus described something they were all familiar with—a farmer casting seed on the ground, and the seed falling on different types of soil.
 - i. Why wouldn't the farmer only cast seed on good soil? Some fell on the pathway by accident (**some fell by the wayside**), but most of the seed was sown on ground that was plowed *after* the seed was cast. Therefore, you didn't know where rocks were or where thorns might grow.
- c. The seed fell on three areas without lasting success: on the pathway (**the wayside**), on the rocky ground (**on rock**), and on the thorny ground (**among thorns**). But some of the seed fell on **good ground**.
- d. Though this is commonly called *the parable of the sower*, it should really be called *the parable of the soils*. The difference is never the *seed*, but on the kind of *soil* it lands on.

3. ([Luk 8:9-10](#)) The purpose of parables.

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'"

- a. **To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables:** As Jesus used them, parables were more like puzzles or riddles than illustrations. Only those who had the right "key" could understand them. The disciples, who wanted the things of God, were **given to know the mysteries of the kingdom**—they could be spoken to plainly. But often, others were taught **in parables**.
 - i. **The mysteries of the kingdom of God:** In the Bible, a *mystery* isn't something you can't figure out. It is something that you would never know unless God revealed it to you. In the Biblical sense of the idea, you may know exactly what a mystery is, yet it is still a mystery, because you would not have known unless God revealed it.

- b. **Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand:** By quoting this passage from [Isaiah 6:9](#), Jesus explained that He offered His hearers the opportunity to dig deep and find the truth, or to turn a

blind eye to an interesting story. This would avoid a greater condemnation for having rejected a clearly understood truth.

i. "So, that their guilt may not accumulate, the Lord no longer addresses them directly in explicit teachings during the period immediately preceding His crucifixion, but in parables." (Geldenhuys)

c. In light of this, how blessed are those who *do* understand the parables of Jesus. Not only do they gain the benefit of the spiritual truth illustrated they also display some measure of responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

4. ([Luk 8:11-15](#)) Jesus explains the parable.

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

a. **The seed is the word of God:** [1 Peter 1:23](#) says that we have *been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.*

i. The natural tendency is for the audience to critique the preacher. But here, Jesus the preacher is critiquing His audience. How they will hear is the issue.

b. **Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved:** Some people are like the ground on the pathway. They allow no room for the seed of the word in their lives-it never enters.

i. This is Satan's preferred result. His desire is that the word take no place in a person's life, so they do not run the "risk" of being fruitful to God.

c. **But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away:** Some people are like the ground that is rocky, but covered with a thin layer of topsoil. They receive the seed of the word with a flash of enthusiasm that quickly burns out.

d. **Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity:** Some people are like the seed that fell among the thorns. They receive the word but allow the interests and cares of this world choke it out.

e. **The ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience:** Some people are like the good ground, and receive the word with a good and noble heart. They **keep** the word, and thus bear fruit, thus fulfilling the purpose of the seed.

f. These four categories apply to those who hear the gospel of salvation, but they also apply to those who are already saved who continually hear the word of God. How do you hear it?

- Do you let Satan take it right away?
- Do you take it but then immediately ignore it?
- Do you allow the cares of this world to make your hearing of the word of no effect?
- Do you keep the word and see it bear fruit in your life?