

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.

### Reflection

Where has the seed landed in your life? What type of soil does your life best reflect today? What are you doing to cultivate the soil in your life to make it more fertile?

### Application

Are you growing and producing fruit that is not only transforming your life, but also the lives of those around you? What kind of fruit is your life producing?

### Prayer

Write out a prayer to God as you reflect on the soil of your soul and the cultivation that needs to be done in your life to produce fruit that will last...



### **Tweetable Tweet**

"Superficiality is the curse of our age..."

— Richard Foster

#TrendingInTheGospels #OWC

# #TRENDING in the Gospels

October 22, 2017

#soil

Part 9

## Passage Study Guide

This week we will be studying a passage recorded in the synoptic Gospels that involves the Parable of the Sower. We have included the pertinent Scripture passages for you to read and study. We have also provided a series of exercises and follow-up questions for you to consider as you study this week.

### Study Exercises

#### **1. What's the Same?**

Spend time reading the passages from each of the Gospels. Then look for what's the same in each of the Gospel accounts. When you identify something that is found in all of the accounts underline them.

#### **2. What's Different?**

Spend time reading the passages from each of the Gospels. Then look for what's different in each of the Gospel accounts. When you identify something that is different go ahead and underline them in a different color.

#### **3. What's Unique?**

Spend time reading the passages from each of the Gospels. Then look for what's unique to each of the Gospel accounts (if applicable). When you identify something that is unique go ahead and highlight them.

#### **4. Definitions**

What are the four groups of people or types of soil that Jesus refers to in this parable? What are the characteristics of each type of soil that Jesus mentions?

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## The Parable of the Sower

### **MATTHEW 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup> A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! <sup>9</sup> Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

### **MARK 4:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

<sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a

footpath, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” <sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

### **LUKE 8:4-8**

<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.”

## Interpretation of the Parable

### **MATTHEW 13:18-23**

<sup>18</sup> “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: <sup>19</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.

<sup>20</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. <sup>22</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. <sup>23</sup> The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

### **MARK 4:10 & 13-20**

<sup>10</sup> Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant.

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables? <sup>14</sup> The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others. <sup>15</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear

the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away. <sup>16</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word. <sup>18</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, <sup>19</sup> but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. <sup>20</sup> And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

### **LUKE 8:9 & 11-15**

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

<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