



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- Kingdom relationships are not built on natural blood ties but on doing the will of the Father. When His mother and brothers stood outside seeking Him, Jesus pointed to His disciples and said, "Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister" (**Matthew 12:46–50**). You can be raised in church and still remain an outsider until you embrace Christ for yourself.
- Jesus opens the parable of the sower with the word “behold,” appealing to both perception and understanding, and closes it with “he who has ears to hear, let him hear” (**Matthew 13:1–9**). He wanted what he was about to say to be taken seriously.
- In the parable, the sower and the seed (which is the word of God) are constant (**Luke 8:11**). The only variable is the soil. The sower's generosity is seen in that every seed sown fell within the boundaries of his field.
- The wayside or footpath heart is the unregenerated heart, hardened by traffic over time and by the deceitfulness of sin. When the word is sown there, the wicked one quickly snatches it away to prevent the hearer from believing and being saved (**Matthew 13:19**). As believers, we too can become hardened in our heart through unbelief in certain areas which we have refused to let God deal with (**Mark 8:13–21, Hebrews 3:12–15**).
- The stony heart receives the word with immediate joy but has no root, so it endures only for a while and stumbles when tribulation or persecution comes (**Matthew 13:20–21**). These are superficial believers, all surface and no depth. They are eager in church but absent when hardship comes (**Isaiah 58:2, Ezekiel 33:30–33, 2 Timothy 3:5**).

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- We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God (**Acts 14:21-22**). Before gold becomes valuable it must go through fire. God will never use an untested vessel, so we must dig our roots deep and build our foundation in Christ (**Matthew 7:24-25**).
- The thorny heart receives the word, but the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, the desire for other things, and the pleasures of life choke it so that it becomes unfruitful (**Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14**). This is the carnal believer who remains a babe, always on milk, never maturing.
- Thorns do not strangle directly; they choke by stealing sunlight and competing aggressively for resources in the soil. In the same way, the pursuit of wealth and earthly pleasure competes for attention with the word of God in the heart and gradually subdues it, as seen in the rich young ruler and in

Demas, who loved this present world (**Matthew 19:23-24, 2 Timothy 4:9-10**).

- The good ground hears the word, understands it, and bears fruit with patience, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (**Matthew 13:23, Luke 8:15**). This is a teachable heart, free of competing thorns, that allows the word to take deep root.
- Abiding in Christ is the secret of the good soil. As a branch cannot bear fruit unless it abides in the vine, we cannot bear fruit apart from him (**John 15:4-5**). The good heart also faces the same sun of persecution as the thorny



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heart, but it stands because its roots run deep.

- It was the same sunlight that shone upon the thorny heart and the good soil—same sunlight, different results. Why? Because one had roots, the other did not.
- What matters most about the good soil is not whether it bears thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold, but that it bears fruit at all. Paul plants, Apollos waters, but God gives the increase; our part is to keep our hearts pliable and ready to receive the word.



PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, I refuse to be an outsider. Let my life be marked by doing Your will, not merely by familiarity with church or with Your house.
2. Lord, search my heart and show me the areas that have grown hardened by unbelief or by the deceitfulness of sin. Break up the fallow ground in me and make my heart soft to receive Your word.
3. Father, let my faith have deep roots. Where I have received Your word with joy but no depth, establish me now, so that when tribulation or persecution comes I will stand and not stumble.
4. Lord, deliver me from the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the pursuit of pleasure. Let nothing compete with Your word for first place in my heart.
5. Father, make my heart a good ground. Let me hear Your word, understand it, and bear fruit with patience, whether thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold.
6. Lord, teach me to abide in You as the branch abides in the vine, so that my life continually bears fruit that will remain.