

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

<sup>1</sup> Again He began to teach by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, <sup>3</sup> “Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; <sup>4</sup> as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.” <sup>9</sup> And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” <sup>10</sup> As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve disciples, began asking Him about the parables.<sup>13</sup> And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup> These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. <sup>16</sup> And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; <sup>17</sup> and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away. <sup>18</sup> And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, <sup>19</sup> but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. <sup>20</sup> And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.”

**MARK 4:1-10, 13-20 NASB**

## EXAMINING THE SOIL OF MY HEART:

### 1. I BREAK UP THE HARD GROUND SO GOD CAN SOW HIS SEED

These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

**MARK 4:15 NASB**

### WHAT DO I DO?

**I protect the seed before the birds can steal it**

<sup>10</sup> With all my heart I have sought you; do not let me wander from Your commandments. <sup>11</sup> I have treasured Your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against You.

**PSALMS 119:10-11 NASB**

**If the enemy acts quickly, I respond quickly**

<sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who has looked intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and has continued in it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an active doer, this person will be blessed in what he does.

**JAMES 1:23-25 NASB**

**I remain vigilant**

But encourage one another every day, as long as it is still called “today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**HEBREWS 3:13 NASB**

## EXAMINING THE SOIL OF MY HEART:

### 2. I BRING HIDDEN THINGS INTO THE LIGHT SO GOD'S WORD CAN TAKE ROOT

<sup>16</sup> And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; <sup>17</sup> and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away.

**MARK 4:16-17 NASB**

### WHAT DO I DO?

**I remove the stones**

<sup>1</sup> My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill. <sup>2</sup> He dug it all around, cleared it of stones, and planted it with the choicest vine.

**ISAIAH 5:1-2 NASB**

**I focus on depth before speed**

having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

**COLOSSIANS 2:7 NASB**

## EXAMINING THE SOIL OF MY HEART:

### 3. I PULL OUT WHAT HINDERS GROWTH SO GOD CAN BRING THE INCREASE

<sup>18</sup> And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, <sup>19</sup> but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**MARK 4:18-19 NASB**

### WHAT DO I DO?

**I identify and pull out weeds by name**

Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us.

**HEBREWS 12:1 NASB**

**I pull them out early before they take root**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart; put me to the test and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup> and see if there is any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

**PSALMS 139:23-24 NASB**

## EXAMINING THE SOIL OF MY HEART:

### 4. I ENRICH THE SOIL SO GOD CAN MULTIPLY THE FRUIT

And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.

**MARK 4:20 NASB**

### WHAT DO I DO?

**I enrich the soil even when it is already good**

<sup>5</sup> Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, <sup>7</sup> and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 PETER 1:5-8 NASB**

**I remain patient until the fruit reaches its full measure**

<sup>6</sup> For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

**PHILLIPIANS 1:6 NASB**

<sup>4</sup> Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

**JOHN 15:4-6 NASB**