



Matthew: Portraits of the King - Week 13
Portraits of the Kingdom
“Soil Care is Soul Care”

Big Idea: The condition of your heart will determine the clarity of God’s voice in your life.

Matthew 13:1-11 (NIV)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” ¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

1 Corinthians 12:3b (NIV)

and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 13:12-15 (NIV)

¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though

seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

Understanding the 4 soils:

Matthew 13:18-19 (NIV)

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

1. The Distracted Heart

- Where there is spiritual apathy there will be no spiritual clarity.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV)

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 32:47 (NIV)

They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV)

The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

2. The “Depthless” Heart

- Shallow soil has enthusiasm, but no endurance.
- Shallow soil is always revealed by trials.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV)

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

3. The Divided Heart

- The divided heart lets “good things” crowd out “Gospel things.”

Matthew 13:23 (NIV)

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

4. The Dedicated Heart

- The dedicated heart is the key to abundance.
- The dedicated heart realizes the seed is not merely a suggestion.
- The dedicated heart always bears spiritual fruit.

The Dedicated Heart:

- confesses the distracted places.
- commits to endurance, not just enthusiasm.
- consistently clears the thorns.