

Storyteller: "When the Word Meets the Heart"

(April 12, 2026)

Scripture: Matthew 13:3-9 (NIV)

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."

Matthew 13:18-23 (NIV)

18 "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. 20 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. 22 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. 23 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."

Big Idea:

The effectiveness of God's Word in your life is determined by the condition of your _____.

The Difference

The difference is not the _____.

The difference is the _____.

1. Some Hearts _____ the Word (Matthew 13:19)

- The problem is the _____.
- The heart is hardened by:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Key Truth: A resistant heart _____ the Word.

2. Some Hearts Receive the Word _____ (Matthew 13:20–21)

- An _____ response without transformation
- No root = no _____

Key Question: Is your faith built on _____ or _____?

3. Some Hearts Are _____, others are _____

a. Distracted (Thorns) – Matthew 13:22

- The issue is _____
- The heart is _____

choked by:

- _____ of life
- _____ of wealth

b. Fruitful (Good Soil) – Matthew 13:23

Progression:

Hear → _____ → Bear _____

Key Truth: Fruit is the _____ of salvation, not the _____.

How the Soil Changes

Hard → Soft: _____

Shallow → Deep: rooted in _____

Crowded → Fruitful: _____

Bearing Fruit: abiding in _____