

Dirt Work
Luke 8:1-15
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Why do people reject the gospel?

1. The **condition** of soils determines the outcome of the sowing. (v.4-8a)
2. The **desires** of the hearer determine what a person understands (v.8b-10).
 - a. Some follow merely **to benefit** from Jesus' compassion and benevolence.
 - b. Others follow who truly believe and want **to understand**.
3. The issue of the heart is the **heart** of the issue. (v.11-15)
 - a. Hard hearted people are **easy targets** for Satan (12).
 - b. Shallow hearted people make **superficial** decisions (v.13).
 - c. Divided hearts get easily **distracted** (v.14).
 - d. Receptive hearts take root and **bear fruit** with perseverance (v.15).

Encouraging words for disciples:

- There is nothing wrong with **the seed** (v.11). - Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23
- There is nothing wrong with **you**, the sower.
- There is nothing wrong with **your method**.
- You are not responsible for the **timing**. Mark 4:26-29.

Sober warnings for hesitant hearers:

- It is dangerous to **reject Jesus!**
- It is dangerous to **superficially** receive the gospel.
- It is dangerous to receive the gospel with a **divided** heart.

Good news! Yet hard hearts can be softened, shallow hearts can be deepened and weedy hearts can be cleaned by the gospel plow of the Word of God.
Romans 10:17