

**Matthew 13**  
Roots & Fruits

*He that has ears ...*

I. The Faithful Sower

- A. Jesus
- B. And His People

II. The Living Seed

- A. The Whole Counsel of God
- B. The Gospel Proper

III. Sundry Soils

- A. Hard
- B. Shallow
- C. Weed Ridden
- D. Fertile

*... let him hear.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. What is a parable?
2. What is the seed in the parable supposed to be in real life?
3. What does the soil stand for?
4. Can you describe what the different soils are like?
5. What happens when the truth about Jesus as Savior really touches someone's heart?

**A Sower Went Out**

It is not for us to know in advance who is and isn't to be saved – that is the secret counsel of God. We know that no one can be saved except by His love and sovereign grace. We also know that in order for people to be saved they need to hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus – and that is to be NO secret! For illustration's sake Jesus describes the sower as scattering seed indiscriminately in this parable. The seed is the word of the Kingdom and that Word is freely broadcast to any and everyone possible. Jesus Himself stood in the open public square declaring the Good News of salvation – the apostles followed suit as have disciples. To varying degrees missionaries, preachers, teachers and just about anyone who has compassion for lost souls has been used by God to spread the word either publically or in private conversations. God does the saving, we do the telling, that's the way it works. A good question we may want to ask ourselves is: are we spreading the Good News? Simple enough. The flip side of that is for the hearer. Is your heart hard, shallow, cluttered with unbelief? Ask God to break up that clay, remove that rock hard layer under the surface, remove all those hindrances to true living faith and give you a fertile heart to receive the living seed of the Gospel. If the Lord has implanted his seed in the good soil He has prepared in your heart, rejoice and delight in bearing all the good fruit He intends to produce from your abundant life in Him!