

“Parable of the Soils”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Key Verses	Soil Types	Description	Interpretation	Application
Matthew 13:4, 19	Wayside Soil	The footpath where the soil is hardened and the seed cannot take root.	One hears God’s Word but does not understand or act upon it. Since he does not truly receive the seed, Satan snatches away the seed of the Word of God.	A hardened response to God’s Word will not produce genuine fruit. One must receive, understand, and act upon God’s Word to produce fruit.
Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21	Stony Soil	Shallow soil close to the surface over the limestone bedrock.	One initially receives God’s Word joyfully, but because it does not truly take root tribulation trips up the hearer.	A shallow response to God’s Word will not produce lasting fruit that withstands tribulation or persecution.
Matthew 13:7, 22	Thorny Soil	Soil full of thorns or weeds that prevent the plants from receiving needed nourishment.	One initially receives God’s Word, but the cares of the world and the seduction of riches chokes out the seed of God’s Word.	A distracted response to God’s Word will eventually be choked out. “More important” things will replace the seed of God’s Word.
Matthew 13:8, 23	Good Soil	Fertile soil that bears an abundant crop.	One wholeheartedly receives the seed of God’s Word, understands it, and produces fruit.	A fruitful response will bear genuine crops. Fertile soil can produce 30, 60, or 100 fold.