

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

Look at the context surrounding the parable. What is happening in these passages?

Mt 9:35-37

Mt 10:5-15

Mt 11:7-15

Mt 11:20-24

Mt 12:1-6

Mt 12: 9-12

Mt 12: 22-24

Mt 12:38-41

How might these passages set the stage for this parable?

What are the focal points of the parable?

Let's look at the seed first. What does the seed represent?

Look at 1 Peter 1:22-25, Rom 1:16, James 1:21, Colossians 1:5-6 – what does this tell us about how the kingdom of Christ spreads?

Now let's look at the soil. What does the soil represent?

What about the first type of soil? What do we learn about the person with this type of heart? What is the warning to us (I Corinthians 1:7-10; Heb 3:7-14)?

How would you describe the second type of soil? What happens to the seed here? Have you ever known anyone like this?

What should the Christian's response be instead (Romans 5:3-6, Romans 8:16-18, James 1:2-4, Psalm 1:3)?

What happens with the third type of soil? What is the problem?

What 3 types of idols are described? How might the following passages shed light on them?

Matthew 6:25-34

Luke 18:18-25

Matthew 6:19-24; 2 Corinthians 8:9

I John 2:15

Philippians 3:7-10

The first three soils represent the callous heart, the superficial heart, and the idolatrous heart. Looking at Matthew 13:10-17, what do we learn about why Jesus used parables?

Finally, we see the good heart. What are the characteristics of good soil?

Does the soil change itself? See Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36: 8-9, 25-26, Luke 18:26-27.

What do we expect to see from a good heart? See Galatians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:12-23

What encouragement regarding the spreading of the kingdom should we draw from this parable?