

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

March 30, 2014 Matthew 13:1-23 by Ben Skeat

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**Main Idea:** *Gods truth has been liberally and deliberately sown into our lives, but it will only find a home and bear fruit in a certain type of person.*

**“the seed”**=Gods word, Gods truth, the message of the kingdom when it is proclaimed, taught, heard, read, discussed, thought about etc....

**God’s truth has a growing nature where it takes root.** (Matt 16:18)

**God is not short of seed & it’s being very liberally sown** (Prov 1:20)

**Gods truth is sown in expectation of a harvest.** (John 15:16)

**Gods word has a multiplying effect where it takes root** (Acts 12:24)

**Four basic types of “soil” (and the seed is always the same)**

- Unreceptive/Uncomprehending: “Hmmm...Shoes, with zippers”
- Enthusiastic but shallow: The window dressing changes frequently, but the stock in the storeroom remains the same.
- Distracted/Deceived: Busy partaking of and sharing their societies values
- Understanding/Perceptive: The only soil that produces a harvest

**1) Good soil is always formed at the hand of the \_\_\_\_\_**

Soil doesn’t become good by itself, something from the outside has to change it.

Jesus changes us as we come to know him. His disciples were changed as they:

- Learned from Him (...take my yoke upon you and learn from me...Matt 11:29)
- Imitated Him (Follow Gods example...Eph 5:1)
- Fellowshiped with Him (Abide in me, and I in you...John 15:4)
- Submitted to Him (To whom else shall we go?...John 6:46)

**Relationship with Jesus must be our focus. Nothing else can change us in the way we need to be changed.**

**2) The soil of our hearts is \_\_\_\_\_ as we seek understanding**

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, (Eph 3:17b-18)*

*...Though it cost all you have, get understanding (Prov 4:7b)*

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God... (James 1:5)*

**The big question is: Are you a learner or do you think you have it all figured out?**

**3) The soil of our hearts is refreshed and given life we look \_\_\_\_\_ for Gods hand at work**

*... our knowledge of men can no longer be based on their outward lives ... (2 Cor 5:16 PHILLIPS)*

*...People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart (1 Sam 16:7)*

*When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends!...(James 1:2-3 PHILLIPS)*

**Submit to understanding Gods ways, and then be on the lookout for what He is up to.**

**4) Gods truth puts down roots in a \_\_\_\_\_ soft heart**

*Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Col. 3:12)*

*...go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ Matt 9:13*

*...the proof of God’s amazing love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8 PHILLIPS)*

*We love, because he first loved us (1 John 4:19)*

*...what is the point of calling me, ‘Lord, Lord’, without doing what I tell you to do? (Luke 6:46 PHILLIPS).*

**Blind spot for many of us, but a heart that is soft is a place where Gods word will put down deep roots and produce an amazing harvest.**