

Learning on how to Listen to God

Our Spiritual Mind Set

Matthew 13:1-9

In this parable:

The **Farmer** is God.

The **seed** is the Word of God.

The **types of soil** are the hearers.

In verse 4 Jesus said, *As He was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.* Jesus' interpretation of this is found in verse 19 *"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path."*

Four different types of spiritual hearers:

The first type of hearer is one with a closed mind.

A close-minded person is one who decides what they are going to hear and what they are not going to hear.

In verses 5 and 6, Jesus described a second type of hearer: *"Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."*

In verses 20 and 21, Jesus interpreted the analogy: *"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away."*

The second type of hearer is one with a cloudy mind. The cloudy minded hearers listen to the Word of God and get excited. When the storms and heat come, they've had it.

Verse 7 describes the third kind of hearer. *"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."* Jesus' explanation is given in verse 22: *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it and making it unfruitful."* This person has a cluttered mind. The cluttered mind is full of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, full of things, people, money, business, and school.

Verse 8 describes the fourth type of hearer. *"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let Him hear."*

Jesus expounds on that in verse 23 *"But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

This is a picture of a committed mind. It has been cultivated, ready for the seed to penetrate. It can enclose the seed, envelop the seed, and provide heat and moisture needed for the seed to germinate and bring forth fruit.

The committed mind is a teachable mind.

The fruitful mind set begins with the seed of a committed mind, blossoming into the productive disciple who hears and obeys God with power and clarity.

His garden is fertile.

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage."
Psalm 84:5