LESSON FOR JANUARY 31 PARABLE OF THE SOILS Luke 8:4-15 (Matt. 13:1-23)

I. The Seed

It is both the Word of God (8:12) and the "sons of the kingdom" (13:33). So the seed is the Word sown by sons of the kingdom.

- II. The Sower is Christ (13:37)
- III. The Soils are various hearers of the Word

There are 4 types of hearers: unresponsive, emotional, materialistic, and fruitful.

- IV. The First Soil was the footpath by the side of the road, not ploughed, where the seed was either trampled or easily snatched by the birds. Explanation is in 8:12.
- V. The Second Soil was the rocky soil with only a thin layer of dirt on top of the rocks. The warmth of the rock would cause the seed to sprout quickly. Explanation is in 8:13.
- VI. The Third Soil was the mixed with thorns which choked the seed. Explanation is in 3:14.
- VII. The Fourth Soil was good and the seed bore fruit (Matthew adds in varying quantities, 13:23).

Some observations:

- 1. Most people will not receive the seed.
- 2. Those who reject do not understand (8:10; 1 Cor. 2:14).
- 3. We need to do a lot of sowing in order to see even some results.
- 4. There will be varying degrees of fruitfulness among believers.

