

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" (13:38). 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 8:14.

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.