

Story of the Sower & Four Soils

1. The Sower & The Seed.

2. Four Soils.

3. Conclusion

In Matthew 13 we find Jesus preaching to a very large crowd. Some will take his message to heart, put their faith and trust in him, and bear good fruit that lasts—then again, many won't. Why does the gospel bear fruit in some lives and not others? In many respects, "The Story of the Sower and Four Soils" is Jesus' answer to that very question. As he explains, the problem does not lie with the Sower or the Seed but with the Soil (condition of the heart) upon which the gospel is sown.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. How can you become more "rooted?" What are some (unseen, underground) habits that might strengthen your relationship with Jesus?
2. What anxieties or ambitions have a grip on you? Who are some people you can turn to, to help you deal with that?

Psalm 121: 1 – 8

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
 who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
 he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
 he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
 your going out and your coming in
 from this time forth and forevermore.

Matthew 9: 35 – 38

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Our passage this week is in a section of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus is explaining His Kingdom. He corrects His people's wrong ideas and offers them a glimpse of what the Kingdom of Heaven is really like. Let us read, study, and meditate on our King's teaching so that we might better love our King.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23; Psalm 121:1-8; Isaiah 27:2-3; 6.** DISCUSS, How does the biblical picture of sowing seeds help you to understand Christ's Kingdom? How are you living out your gratitude to Him? PRAY "Lord, You are the Lord of the Harvest. Help us to truly trust You in running Your Kingdom Your way."

Sunday Evening

7:30pm Please attend the *Young Adults Fellowship* if you are able to do so.

Monday

READ **Matthew 13:1-9; Matthew 9:35-38.** DISCUSS, The people of Israel were expecting Messiah to bring a season of harvest, but Jesus stresses the sowing that still needs to be done. Why? How do we tend to focus on the wrong aspect of Christ's Kingdom? How does the Scripture correct us? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your patience as the Lord of the Harvest. Teach us to trust Your Wisdom."

Tuesday

READ **Matthew 13:1-9; Daniel 2:27-30; 46-47.** DISCUSS, Why does Jesus say, "He who has ears, let him hear"? How does this relate to the mysteries revealed to Daniel? PRAY, "Lord, we confess that we are foolish. We often think we know far more than we do. But You alone know all things. Please reveal to us, through Your Word, what we need to know and the strength to act accordingly. "

Wednesday

READ **Matthew 13:18-23; Psalm 1:3-5**. DISCUSS, How much did you contribute to where you were planted? What are you doing now to make use of the blessings God has graciously given you? PRAY, “Lord, thank You for establishing us in Your Kingdom. Help us to serve You faithfully and joyfully.”

Thursday

READ **Matthew 13:18-23; First Timothy 6:9-19; Deuteronomy 29:16-28**. DISCUSS, What are some of the dangers against which God’s people are warned here? How dire are the consequences of bad roots? PRAY, Lord You alone are Wise. Make us wise in Your ways and protect us from our foolish sinfulness.”

Friday

READ **Matthew 13:1-23; Psalm 121:1-8; Isaiah 27:2-6**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to be identified among His people! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.*

READ **Acts 9:1-43; Joshua 1:31-18**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us in the transition back to gathered worship in the building.

Isaiah 27: 2 – 3; 6

In that day, “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!
I, the Lord, am its keeper; every moment I water it.
Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day;

In days to come Jacob shall take root,
Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots
and fill the whole world with fruit.