

Four Types of Soil

Text: **Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23**

I. Introduction

A. We have before us a text that in a simple manner illustrates an important teaching concerning regeneration; being born again.

1. We must always realize that within the "church" there exists both regenerate and unregenerate people.

2. They are described in Scripture as (1) sheep and goats, (2) wheat and tares, (3) saved and lost.

3. It is not always completely obvious as to whom belongs to each category. However this is only the case at the beginning of a persons "spiritual journey."

4. The more time that goes by the children of Yahweh and the children of the Devil are evident.

5. The more deeply that you know people causes you to recognize which category they belong to. Likewise they recognize which category you belong to.

B. A teacher that stands up before a congregation, whether small or great, never knows what is happening in a persons heart and mind at that time.

1. One thing is for certain - some people are truly hearing the word of Yahweh. Others are simply hearing the vocal progressions of the preacher.

2. A person can hear, but not hear. A person can see, but not see.

3. A teachers job is to sow the seed and water the plant. The job of all true

believers is to be seed sowers and plant waterers to some extent.

4. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 - "5) What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? They are servants through whom you believed, and each has the role the Lord has given. 6) I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7) So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."

5. Today I want to talk a little bit about the word of Yahweh being sown on your soil, and ask the question, "What type of soil are you?"

II. Matthew 13:1-9

A. Verses 1-2

1. Yeshua goes out of a house (very likely Simon Peter's house mentioned previously in Matthew 8:14).
2. As He sat by the sea (of Galilee) there were numerous people who gathered around him.
 - a. These people had obviously heard of this man who taught with authority.
 - b. They gathered around I'm sure with great desire to hear what He had to teach them.
3. The picture here is Yeshua sitting on in a boat just by the seashore and the crowd is standing there on the shore.

B. Verse 3

1. He told them many parables that day. This goes all the way to verse 53 of the chapter.

2. Parables. What is a parable? A good definition is "a symbolic fictitious narrative of common life conveying a moral reality." You might say it is a story made up to teach a lesson about what really takes place. Parables help illustrate reality.

3. He begins this particular parable with a sower who went out to sow seed.

a. We must not think here of a sower that meticulously went and found the best soil for each individual seed.

b. The Greek word for sower or sow can mean to scatter; to broadcast seed. I think of Jerry Clower talking about that fellow in one of his jokes that could broadcast that seed.

C. Verses 4-8

1. The first three seeds mentioned here are seeds that never produced anything to harvest.

a. Path Soil (vs. 4) These were likely sown on ground that had been walked over often. The path that people would take when walking that lay of land, thus the ground was compressed. Birds came by and ate these seeds.

b. Rocky Soil (vs. 5) Mostly rock and not a lot of ground or soil. These did spring up, a plant grew, but the lack of soil did not allow the root system of the seed to grow. The heat of the sun caused the new plants to wither.

c. Thorny Soil (vs. 7) These thorns in this soil are said to choke out the plants that grow from these seeds.

2. Then we have one type of soil that is called in verse 8 "good ground."

a. These seeds produced a crop; there was a harvest that eventually came from these seeds.

b. Some of them produced 100x, some 60x, and some 30x what was sown.

D. Verse 9 - Yeshua concludes the parable by saying that anyone who has ears let him listen.

1. People might think that it is inevitable that if you have ears you will listen.

2. But remember what I mentioned previously. You can listen but not really be listening.

3. Yeshua is talking about a spiritual listening here, and not just a hearing of what is being said.

III. Matthew 13:18-23 (We have the awesome privilege of a record of Yeshua's explanation to this parable.)

A. Verses 18-19 (Path Soil)

1. Someone hears (physical) the word about the kingdom. (Notice it is **the kingdom** that is being taught.)
2. This person although hearing with their ears does not hear spiritually. They do not understand what is being taught.
3. Recognize that there is no fault placed upon the message here. **It is not the messengers fault, the messenger is teaching exactly what he is supposed to.** The fault lies in the fact that the person is not able to understand the message.
4. The evil one (Satan or a minister of Satan) comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.

5. This is the Path Soil.

6. We may think, "Poor guy, he tried to understand, but he just couldn't." But that is not the picture here. The picture here is that he could not understand because there was no spiritual ability to hear what was being spoken. There only existed a heart of stone.

7. Remember what Romans 8:7 states about the fleshly mind. "7 For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so."

8. Realize that people who hear the word about the kingdom and do not understand it are people who do not have a desire to understand it - that's why they do not understand it.

B. Verses 20-21 (Rocky Soil)

1. Here we have an explanation of the rocky soil.

2. Some people believe that this soil represents people who get saved but fall away from salvation; I do not believe this is what is being taught.

3. There can be a hearing of the word and because of external means (friends, family, something new, something different) there is joy in listening to the word.

4. This is the key though. Verse 21 says he has NO ROOT in himself. When you have no root you produce no fruit. When you have no root, you have no salvation.

5. This is why verse 21 explains that pressure and persecution causes the immediate stumbling of these people.

6. You've probably know or seen people yourself that seem to "jump on the band wagon" all at once and you think that they've been delivered. But it is only short-lived. Next thing you know they are nowhere to be found.

7. I had a friend of mine do this once. I prayed for him, help baptize him, he changed his outward appearance. None of this though changed his heart.

C. Verse 22 (Thorny Soil)

1. This person once again hears the word, but the circumstances of this life choke out the word.

2. Yeshua here speaks of the worries of this age and seduction of wealth. All the things that the idolaters seek for. People who are driven by material things often serve them and use God as an appendage.

3. Some people believe these people were once saved and then lost their salvation. I once again do not believe such.

a. Those believing this point out the end of verse 22 which says it becomes unfruitful, and they take it to mean they produce fruit but later become unfruitful.

b. I understand that becoming unfruitful means no fruit. In other words there may have been some type of a plant but in the end there was no fruit on the plant.

c. If you are unfruitful (which this soil is) then you do not have salvation.

D. Verse 23 (Good Soil)

1. This person hears the word, is able to understand the word, and then goes on to bear forth fruit.
2. Notice that there are various amounts of fruit in the lives of the saved; also notice how that the least amount is 30 times what was sown!
3. Here we have the only saved group in the whole parable.

IV. Conclusion

#1. Only a portion of the people that hear the word of the Kingdom will bear fruit.
We should never think that when we speak truth if someone isn't converted that it was a waist of time. Yahweh is glorified in the teaching of the Kingdom even if in a crowd of 500, 499 shake their fist and curse you, and only 1 is changed by the power of the

Spirit. Even Yeshua had people reject his teaching many times.

#2. The only genuine evidence of salvation is fruit, i.e. works in the life of a person.

While we are not saved by works (works aren't the root) the evidence of salvation is always works. Fruit is always produced by genuine roots; isn't that what this parable teaches us?

#3. Herein lies an important truth in Yahweh's word. People do not lose their salvation; I know, I know many people disagree with this and you may. The people that appear to lose salvation in reality never had it to begin with. Passages like John 6, Romans 8, Revelation 13, and many more teach this grand truth. There are people who will sit in church until they die and be just as unsaved as the unregenerate who never entered a church building in their life.

Remember Matthew 7:21-23. I NEVER KNEW YOU. Not I once knew you, but now I don't.