



Sermon Discussion Guide

6/14/2026

Sermon: Kingdom Stories "The Soil of the Heart"

Text: *Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15*

Introduction:

What are some things that help a plant thrive?

What are some things that prevent healthy growth?

From the Text

Read the parallel texts: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15

Discussion:

What details stand out to you from the different Gospel accounts?

What words or phrases catch your attention?

Sermon Reflection:

Understanding the Parable (5 minutes)

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a story about seed and soil to describe the Kingdom of God?

2. According to Luke 8:11, what does the seed represent?

Why is that important for understanding the parable?

3. In all three accounts, what remains the same throughout the story?

What changes?

4. What does this teach us about God's character?

How does the generous scattering of seed reveal God's grace?

Examining the Soils

The Hardened Soil - Jesus says the seed never penetrates the heart before the enemy steals it away.

What are some things that can harden a person's heart toward God?

Have you ever experienced a season where disappointment, hurt, sin, or familiarity made you less receptive to God's voice?

Why do you think familiarity with spiritual things can sometimes become dangerous?

The Shallow Soil - This person receives the Word with joy but has no root.

What is the difference between being inspired by Jesus and being formed by Jesus?

Why do trials reveal the depth of our roots?

What spiritual practices help develop deeper roots?

The Thorny Soil - Luke adds that the plant is choked by worries, riches, and pleasures.

Which of those three "thorns" seems most common in our culture?

What are some good things that can become competing things in our lives?

Have you ever experienced a season where busyness crowded out your relationship with God?

The Good Soil - Luke 8:15 describes good soil as those who hear the Word, retain it, and persevere.

What characteristics stand out about the good soil?

Why do you think perseverance is such an important part of fruitfulness?

Becoming Fruitful Disciples (5 minutes)

In the sermon we discussed Jesus' words: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19)

- 1. What does the phrase "I will make you" teach us about discipleship?**
- 2. How have you seen Jesus changing you over time?**
- 3. Why is fruitfulness a better measure of spiritual growth than simply gaining more knowledge?**
- 4. What kind of fruit do you believe God wants to grow in your life right now?**

 **Close in prayer:**

Read Luke 8:15 aloud:

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."