

The Parable of the Four Soils / The Storyteller
Matthew 13:1-23 NLT / June 7, 2026
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The Farmer = Jesus
The Seed = Word of God
The Soil = Condition of the Human Heart

FOUR CONDITIONS OF THE HEART

1. The Calloused Heart (Footpath)

"I hear—but I don't engage."

- Hears the Word but does not receive it.
- Familiarity, indifference, cynicism, rebellion.
- The enemy snatches away what never takes root.

Examples:

2. The Conditional Heart (Rocky Ground)

"I hear—but I don't go deep."

- Receives the Word with joy.
- Falls away when pressure, hardship, or offense comes.
- Faith built on feelings instead of roots.

Examples:

3. The Crowded Heart (Thorns)

"I hear—but I'm distracted."

- Worries of life.
- Deceitfulness of wealth.
- Good things become competing things.

Examples:

4. The Cultivated Heart (Good Soil)

"I hear—and I act."

The Word produces fruit:

- Contrition (Matthew 3:8)
- Character (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Conduct (Colossians 1:10)
- Celebration (Hebrews 13:15)
- Conversions (Romans 1:13)

The true measure of whether the Word has been received isn't enthusiasm, a feeling, agreement, intellectual belief or great church attendance. The true measure is whether the Word produces transformation in your life and lives around you over time!

Five Evaluative Questions

1. Which soil best describes my heart right now?
2. When was the last time God's Word changed something in me?
3. Am I receiving more seed from God's Word or from culture?
4. What thorns are growing in my life?
5. Who am I helping take a step closer to Jesus?

Three Important Observations

1. The Farmer is generous with the seed.
2. The condition of your heart is not permanent
3. Deep roots and lasting fruit take time.

The Farmer is still sowing. The Spirit is still working. And Jesus can transform any soil into good soil.