

SOIL AND SEED

Matthew 13:1-23

When Jesus teaches on the sower and soils, he is drawing from five other Old Testament passages which provide more insight for his teaching. This week, read through those passages, and then read the parable again and see what you may have missed

Monday: Read Isaiah 6:9-10.

Isaiah is warning a people who know the Torah but don't want to follow God's instruction. Why might some people not want to hear what the Bible says, or see what God wants them to see?

Tuesday: Read Hosea 10:12.

How can pursuing right living with God and being generous help to "break up the unplanted ground" in your life, or give your life a greater sense of purpose and meaning?

Wednesday: Read Isaiah 5:24.

How can studying the Bible, knowing God's love and ways, give you healthy roots in your faith?

Thursday: Read Jeremiah 4:3-4.

What things of this world (idols, thorns) keep you from being fully dedicated to God with all aspects of your life?

Friday: Read Genesis 26:12-32.

As one of only two places where the idea of "hundredfold" blessing appears in the Bible, what can we learn from Isaac's approach to faithful living in the midst of opposition?

Saturday: Read Matthew 13:1-23

What do you need to do so that your life is good soil for the planting of God's kingdom?

SUMMARY

When Jesus shares the Parable of the Sower, he is following a well-used rabbinical formula for teaching. The aim of the story is for the students to ask: Which kind of learner, or follower, am I? In this parable, the one who hears God's teaching and doesn't try to understand; the one who understands but doesn't let it take root in your life; the one who understands but is overcome by the world's ways; or the one who understands and lets God's teaching be your guide. Even better, hidden in the parable, for those who choose to dig, is the way to become the kind of soil where God's word grows in you.

Which kind of soil are you?