

How's Your Dirt?
*The Parable of the Sower,
the Seed, and the Soils*

I. The Story (Matt. 13:3-9 NLT):

He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

II. The Interpretation (Matt. 13:18-23 NLT):

"Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

☞ The Sower:

☞ The Seed:

☞ The Soils:

- ① "The Path" represents the _____ heart of a man who will not even _____ the message.
- ② "Rocky" soil represents the _____ heart of a man who lacks _____.
- ③ "Among Thorns" represents the _____ heart of a man who is _____ by _____.
- ④ "Good" soil represents the _____ heart of a man who is _____ to _____ and _____.

III. The Application:

✂ For those of us with a Heart (that would be everyone):

✂ For those of us who Sow: