



# God's Kingdom #5



## The Parable of the Farmer [Sower]

Matthew 13, Mark 4 & Luke 8

He said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable?  
How then will you understand all the parables? Mark 4:13 CET

“Whoever has ears, let them hear.” Matthew 13:9 CET

- \*The Farmer [Sower]: God
- \*The Seed: God’s Word/Voice [Kingdom Message]
- \*The Soil [4 Types]: Our Hearts/Minds
- \* The Birds: Evil One/Satan/Devil

### 1. Hardened/Unbelieving Heart Stage

**Parable:** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Mark 4:4 NIV

**Explanation:** “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:  
<sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. Matthew 13:19 NIV

Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Luke 8:12 NIV

### 2. Rocky/Shallow Heart Stage

**Parable:** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Mark 4:5-6 NIV because they had no moisture. Luke 8:6

**Explanation:** Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup>But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Mark 4:16-17 NIV

They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away Luke 8:13b NIV

### 3. Thorny/Unfruitful Heart Stage

**Parable:** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Mark 4:7 NIV

**Explanation:** Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; <sup>19</sup>but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Mark 4:18-19 NIV

...as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Luke 8:14 NIV

### 4. Good/Fruitful Heart Stage

**Parable:** Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” Mark 4:8 NIV

**Explanation:** Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.” Mark 4:20 NIV

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. Luke 8:15 NIV



How is the soil of your heart?  
Is your heart hearing and obeying God’s voice?