

INTRODUCTION

- * "Focusing on the Messiah in the book of Matthew." Matthew was a Jewish man writing to a Jewish audience and giving testimony regarding the life and ministry of the Messiah who had been foretold by many of the Jewish prophets.
- * We have spent the last two months - 9 messages - considering the Authority of the Messiah. Over the past two weeks, we considered Jesus' declaration of His authority and the religious establishment's denouncement of it.
- * Matthew now transitions his account of the life and ministry of the Messiah to the instructional phase by sharing several of Jesus' parables. However, before we can adequately study this chapter, we must first understand the concept of "Parables"
 - I. PARABLES ARE TO BE ORATORICALLY GIVEN (*They are oratorical in nature*)
 - II. PARABLES ARE TO BE EXEGETICALLY INTERPRETED ... EXEGESIS v. EISOGESIS
 - III. PARABLES ARE TO BE SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED (v. 9-17)
- * For this first parable, Jesus gives us the illustration AND the interpretation. However, we are still left to determine the impact ... the application!

INSTRUCTION

- I. THE SOWER (v. 3, 18)**
 - A. The Interpretation:**
 - B. The Application (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5: 20; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7):**
- II. THE SEED (v. 3-4, 19; Luke 8:11)**
 - A. The Interpretation:**
 - B. The Application:**
- III. THE SOIL (v. 4-8, 19-23)**
 - A. The Hard Soil (v. 4, 19; Isaiah 55:11):**
 - B. The Rocky Soil (v. 5-6, 20-21):**
 - * cf. Hebrews 3:14; Matthew 10:22; Luke 14:27-33
 - C. The Thorny Soil (v. 7, 22):**
 - * Matthew 6:24; 1 John 2:15-16; Romans 6:16
 - D. The Fertile Soil (v. 8, 23):**
 1. THEY HEAR AND UNDERSTAND THE WORD!
 2. THEY PRODUCE FRUIT (Gal 5:16- 6:8; Eph 2:8-10; John 15:1-8; Romans 8:1-17)

INTROSPECTION

- * WHICH SOIL BEST DESCRIBES YOU?
- * IF YOUR LIFE DOES NOT REFLECT THE FERTILE SOIL, ARE YOU WILLING TO ASK THE LORD TO COME INTO YOUR "FIELD" AND PREPARE IT?
- * ARE YOU FULFILLING THE ROLE OF THE SOWER? WHAT KIND OF SEED ARE YOU SOWING?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO "CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK" ... AND, THEREFORE, ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

It may be helpful to re-read the passage before the discussion.

- * How are we doing, as a church, at fulfilling the role of the sower?
- * What kind of soil would best describe our church?