It All Depends On The Dirt KZ 10 4 20

# Memory Verse: Matthew 13:23  (NKJV)

**23**But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it,* who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Target Thought: We will keep our hearts prepared to be good soil.

# Matthew 13:1-9  (NKJV)

**13**On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. **2**And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

**3**Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4**And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. **5**Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. **6**But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. **7**And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. **8**But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **9**He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

At this point the disciples had some questions about understanding this parable so Jesus began to explain it to them.

# Matthew 13:18-23  (NKJV)

**18**“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19**When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it,* then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20**But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21**yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22**Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23**But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it,* who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Have you ever planted anything? Perhaps you took some packages of seeds and planted a garden of vegetables. If so, you know that the type of soil that you have is very important to the success of a garden. If the ground is too hard, or full of rocks and weeds, you probably won't have a very good crop of vegetables.

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a man who went out and planted some seeds. This story that Jesus told is usually called "The Parable of the Sower," but actually, the story is more about the soil than it is the sower or the seed. The seed that is sown is the Some of the seed that was planted fell on the path where the ground was very hard. The seeds just lay on top of the ground and the birds came and ate the seeds. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground. The seeds sprang up quickly, but when the sun came, the plants dried up because they didn't have good roots. Some of the seeds fell among weeds and plants grew for a little while, but the weeds took over and choked them out. Fortunately, some of the seed fell on good soil and the plants grew strong and healthy and produced a good crop.

In Jesus' story, the 1. Word of God is the seed, and we are the soil. Often, when we come to church, the preacher is preaching the Word, ( 1. the Pastor or teacher is the sower)but we aren't really paying attention. Perhaps we are thinking about what we are going to do that afternoon or about what we did yesterday. We are hearing the Word, but we are not listening. That is like throwing seed on the top of the ground. It won't ever grow into anything in our life.

2. The wicked one who comes to try to steal the Word from our heart is satan. Remember John 10:10?

There are other times when we hear the Word and we get excited about it, but then our excitement fades and we drift away. That is like the seeds that fall on the rocky ground. The plants spring up, but then die because the roots are too shallow.

Sometimes we hear the Word and we believe what it says, but we want to keep on doing the same things we have been doing. That is like planting the seed in with a bunch of weeds. I can tell you what will happen, the weeds will soon take over!

3. When we hear the word, and we listen and try to understand what it says and put it into practice in our daily life, then we are like good soil. We are like soil where the seed takes root and grows and produces a plentiful harvest. That is the kind of soil that Jesus wants us to be. What kind of soil are you?

Dear Jesus, we want to good soil. Help us to listen to God's Word and put it into practice in our daily life. In your name we ask. Amen.

1. Explain to me what is the seed, what is the soil and who is the sower?

2. Who is the wicked one who tries to steal the Word?

3. How can we keep our hearts prepared to be good soil?