

# The Parable of the Sower

Scripture: **Luke 8:4-15**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, March 4, 2018



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## Overview

We see in the Gospel accounts that Jesus often spoke in parables. However, not everyone in his audience is able to discern the meaning of Jesus' parables, since not everyone "has ears to hear" (Luke 8:8). To some—such as Jesus' disciples—"it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:10). But for others, the secrets of the kingdom are concealed, thus they do not have "ears to hear." Regarding the parable of the sower, our tendency might be to assume this is addressed merely to unbelievers, since they are the ones who ultimately walk away from the teaching and message of God's Word (1 John 2:19). However, even the hearts of believers can grow spiritually cold or hardened if we neglect to guard our heart, and consequently we will bear little fruit. So as we contemplate this parable in this light, we must understand that God's Word is being sown among us, too, as believers in Christ. Yet how we receive God's truth will be determined by the condition of our heart. Just as the soil needs to be cultivated in order for the seed to grow and bear fruit, so our hearts need to be prepared for God's Word and be prepared to bear fruit, since **a fruitful life requires a cultivated heart.**

## Corroborating Texts

Isaiah 6:9; Jeremiah 4:3; Hosea 10:12; 1 John 2:19

## Discussion Questions

1. In today's passage, who is the sower and what is being sown? Discuss the nature of parables. Why are some able to understand Jesus' parables while others are not?
2. What are the four types of soil that Jesus' described? [a path, rock, thorns, good soil]. Discuss the meaning of the four types of soil and the spiritual implications of each.
3. When you hear the Word of God lately, are you cold or dry? Does the Word move you?
4. What does it mean to "break up your fallow ground?" Discuss the Jeremiah and Hosea passages. How do these passages relate to the parable of the sower?
5. How do we break up our fallow ground and cultivate the soil in our heart? Pastor Joe mentioned 4 ways: 1) identifying, repenting, and confessing sins; 2) seeking the Lord and asking Him for help; 3) partaking in the means of grace with eager expectancy; 4) getting help from others, since we need others to come alongside and speak the Word into us.
6. In order to live a fruitful life we need to cultivate the heart. In what areas of your heart is sin choking out the fruit? What areas of your heart need more cultivating?