

Cultivate a Receptive Heart (Pt. 1) — Learning to Hear God's Voice #3
Church by the Sea ~ Madeira Beach, FL
October 9, 2022 — Dr. Jeffry Iskra

Luke 8:4-8 (NLT) One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: ⁵ "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Vs. 11-15 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. ¹² The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. ¹³ The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest,

good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

1. **I** must cultivate a receptive heart

Luke 8:5 ...some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it.

Vs. 12 The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

Soil #1 = The **HARDENED** mind/heart

Three Causes of a Hard Heart

(1) **PRIDE**

Psalm 10:4 (NIV) In his pride the wicked person does not seek (God); in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Proverbs 16:18 (NCV) Pride leads to destruction; a proud attitude brings ruin.

(2) **FEAR**

Proverb 14:12 There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

(3) **BITTERNESS**

Ephesians 4:31a Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger...

James 1:21 Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.