

MARK: THE JESUS YOU NEED TO KNOW PART 3
“PARABLE OF SOILS”
SCRIPTURE: MARK 4
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INTRODUCTION

- Don't confuse emotion and commitment.
- Emotion can lead us to a decision. Commitment allows us to stick with that decision when things get hard.
- The parable of the soils helps to answer some critical questions.
- Why do some people commit and then fall away? Why should the Gospel be shared indiscriminately? Why are some people closed off to Jesus? And what are the two things that show someone has understood the message of salvation?
- The parable of the soils speaks about four heart conditions (soils) and how each condition determines someone's response to the seed (the gospel).

I. HARD SOIL

- The hard soil is soil that has been tamped down and compacted. It is impenetrable.
- This can develop as a result of tragedy, unanswered prayer or unmet expectations.
- Hard hearts are often hurt hearts.
- It can also happen because of pride—human ideas superimposed over God's wisdom.

II. ROCKY SOIL

- Rocky soil starts with emotion but is low on commitment.
- Our level of emotion is not directly related to our level of commitment to Jesus.

- The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)
- When you present the gospel, appeal to the heart and the mind.

III. THORNY SOIL

- This is the person who is ready to follow Jesus but unwilling to let go of hindrances.
- They are genuine but conflicted; committed but entangled. Strong in their desire but weak in their resolve.
- But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

IV. GOOD SOIL

- How do I know if my heart is good soil? Two elements will tell you that. Time and fruit.
- When you have understood the gospel, there will be consistent transformation over an extended period of time.
- This doesn't mean there won't be flaws or failures.
- However, this person continually pursues Jesus through trial, tragedy and unmet expectations.
- Their faith is resilient and unwavering though at times it may be tested and shaken.

CLOSE

- Share the gospel indiscriminately. You don't know someone's heart. Hence you won't know how they will respond.
- Don't be conflicted because you don't have a polished presentation. The heart matters more than the message.
- Pray for people's hearts to be good soil.