

**Hear** | What Scripture is God highlighting?

**MATTHEW 13:1-23**

**Our Hearts | Good Soil**

45

Matt. 13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

46

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

47

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever **hearing but never understanding**; you will be ever **seeing but never perceiving**.

15 For this **people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.** Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

48

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

49

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone **hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it**, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

50

20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who **hears the word and at once receives it with joy**. 21 But since **he has no root, he lasts only a short time**. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

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22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who **hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it**, making it unfruitful.

52

23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who **hears the word and understands it**. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

53

**Examine** | ... the context.

- V.1-9 **Kingdom farmer:** Jesus’ parable of sower, seeds and soil.
- V.10-13 **Kingdom parables:** To reveal secrets | kingdom of heaven.
- V.14-15 **Kingdom prophecy:** Spiritual eyes, ears, hearts.
- V.16-17 **Kingdom seeing/hearing:** The blessed eye and ears.
- V.18-23 **Kingdom heart and life:** Jesus’ parable revealed.

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**Examine** | ... the context.

|                  |  |                             |                      |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| path             | hard-callous       | evil one                    | snatched away        |
| rocky            | shallow           | trouble/<br>persecution     | fall away            |
| thorns           | crowded           | worry/wealth<br>smokescreen | choked<br>unfruitful |
| <b>good soil</b> | <b>receptive </b> | <b>productive</b>           | <b>fruitful</b>      |

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**Apply** | What is God saying to you?

- Is your heart calloused and affected by spiritual warfare?
- Are there trouble or challenges drawing you away from God?
- Are you being choked out by the worries of life and money?
- I commit to cultivate a good, fruitful heart for His Kingdom.**

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**RESPOND** | What is a prayer reflection?

Father God, Thank You for Your love revealed through Jesus.  
Jesus, I receive You into my heart and life as my Lord and Savior.  
Forgive me for my sin. Break up any callous places in my heart and strengthen me against spiritual warfare. Forgive me for what I allow to distract me and draw me away from You. Weed out any worries or greed that choke my faith. Plant Your Word deep in me. Make my heart good soil. Grow Your fruit in my life for Your Kingdom. I belong to You.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

