

The Stories Jesus Told (*Sermon Series*)

The Parable of the Soils

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-23

First Sunday at Highview

Big Question: Why did Jesus speak in parables and what does the parable of the soil teach us about our faith?

Big Idea: *Believers know the **fruitfulness** of God's Word in our lives depends on the **faithfulness** of our hearts to hear.*

Introduction: *The Kingdom of God is like... Lancaster County is like...*

The Parable of the Soil

- V. 1-3 **The Setting**
 - An invitation for all to turn all of their lives over to Jesus.
- V. 4-9 **The Parable**
 - The sower = Jesus
 - The seed = The Word of God
 - The soil = Our Hearts
- V. 10 **The Questions**
- V. 11-17 **The Answers**
- Why does Jesus teach in parables?
 - Parables serve as dividing lines between faith and rejection.
- What does the parable of the soil teach us?
 - Jesus offers all of Himself to all people but growth in Jesus depends on the soil we give Jesus to grow in.
- V. 18-23 **The Explanation**
 - Hard soil = hard hearts towards Jesus *those who reject Him from the beginning*
 - Thin soil = those who want to *use* Jesus but not follow Jesus
 - Thorny soil = those with divided loyalties *Jesus plus*
 - Good soil = those who earnestly want to find and follow Jesus

How to apply this parable to our lives:

- Stop **withholding your soil**
- Stop **weeds from taking root** in your soil
- Keep **watering your soil** with the seed of God's Word

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 13:23