

Luke 8: The Soil of the Heart, Part 3

Luke 8:13-15 We've been commissioned to tell the world the truth, and it's not complicated!

- ✓ Sowing is not complicated, but growing a good plant is, getting people to accept the truth is.
 - ✓ Why would someone reject a free gift and turn down forgiveness? The parable of the soils answers that question for us.
 - ✓ This parable tells that some reject with hearts like concrete and others feign accepting Jesus, but in fact they have their own ideas of who Jesus is and accept their idea of Him.
 - ✓ Some are like those with the weeds and thorns; they have their heart set on other things and never really accept Jesus, but the fact is that they never stopped loving the world. **1st John 2:15**
 - ✓ Like the rich young ruler, when push came to shove, his heart was in the world, and he walked away from God's salvation because he loved the world.
 - ✓ In both cases, they outwardly appear to accept the truth, but time and trouble show that the seed never really was allowed to grow.
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John 6:66 These were not backslidden Christians or too young in the faith to know to follow.

- ✓ These were all fakers, not real believers. Did Jesus need to learn better how to present the gospel? Was the Word of God low on energy the day they heard it?
- ✓ If this was how Jesus' presentation of the truth fared, how will ours?

The final soil: what makes the difference?

- ✓ **Verse 15** "with perseverance" Unlike the previous two soils where time and trouble showed what they really were.
 - ✓ Time and trouble do nothing to good soil but make it more fruitful; time and trouble makes us more of what we already are, **James 1:2**.
 - ✓ "With perseverance" Perseverance of the saints or "Once saved always saved."
 - ✓ "Good and honest" So are these just better people? No.
 - ✓ All these soils are the same; that is, they are all made of the same stuff.
 - ✓ Human hearts are all the same; sinful, depraved, and deceived.
 - ✓ Soil is dead by nature. Dirt doesn't do anything and will remain nothing more than dirt, apart from the seed.
 - ✓ Dirt just lies there; it doesn't do anything ever; it doesn't go looking for the sower or the seed. "No one searches after God."
 - ✓ The dirt is sought by the sower who plants the seed; it's the seed that takes root, holds on, and produces the fruit.
 - ✓ People who come to Jesus for the wrong reasons do not believe in the real Jesus, but one that either we or they have concocted.
 - ✓ It's not the make-up of the soil; the soil on the path is no more dead than the good soil;; it's the condition of the soil.
 - ✓ "Good and honest" There is no ulterior motive; they are a sinner, and they know it; they need a savior, and they know it.
 - ✓ There isn't rocky soil underneath; they don't plan to walk out to pursue the world; they want a Savior!
 - ✓ Pray the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of those who haven't yet accepted Him, **John 16:8**.
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