

## ***“The Heart That Faith Can Grow In”***

*The Secret Teachings of Jesus #1*  
Matthew 13:1-23

### ***What Is A “Parable?”***

**Matthew 13:3-9** (NLT) "A farmer went out to plant some seed. [4] As he scattered it across his field, some seeds fell on a **footpath**, and the birds came and ate them. [5] Other seeds fell on **shallow soil** with underlying rock. The plants sprang up quickly, [6] but they soon wilted beneath the hot sun and died because the roots had no nourishment in the shallow soil. [7] Other seeds fell **among thorns** that shot up and choked out the tender blades. [8] But some seeds fell on **fertile soil** and **produced a crop** that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted. [9] **Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand!**"

### ***The Cultivation of a Healthy Heart***

#### ***1. The Hard Soil Is A Hardened Heart.***

**Matthew 13:19** (Message) When anyone hears news of the kingdom and **doesn't take it in**, it **just remains on the surface**, and so the Evil One comes along and **plucks it right out of that person's heart**. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road. Proverbs 13:12a

**Hebrews 3:13** Encourage one another daily ...so that none of you may be **hardened by sin's deceitfulness**.

Job 10:1; Psalm 51:16-17

#### ***2. The Rocky Soil Is A Shallow Heart.***

**Matthew 13:20-21** (NLT) The **rocky soil** represents those who **hear the message and receive it with joy**. [21] But like young plants in such soil, **their roots don't go very deep**. At first they get along fine, but **they wilt as soon as they have problems** or are **persecuted because they believe the word**. John 6:66; Matthew 7:26-27; Romans 5:3-4; James 1:12

#### ***3. The Thorny Soil Is A Divided Heart.***

**Matthew 13:7** (NLT) Other seeds **fell among thorns** that grew up and **choked out** the tender plants.

**Luke 21:34** (Jesus) "Be careful, or **your hearts will be weighed down** with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life ..." Jeremiah 17:9

**Psalm 86:11** Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an **undivided heart**, that I may fear your name. Psalm 51:10, 17

#### ***4. The Good Soil Is A Healthy Heart.***

**Matthew 13:8** (NLT) 8 Still **other seeds fell on fertile soil**, and they **produced a crop** that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Proverbs 4:23

- ***Cultivate Your Heart with Personal Reflection.***

Proverbs 27:19; Luke 6:45; Deuteronomy 6:4-5

- ***Cultivate Your Heart with Biblical Meditation.***

James 1:25; Psalm 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

**Psalm 119:11** (NLT) I have **hidden your word in my heart**, that I might not sin against you.

- ***Cultivate Your Heart with Surrendering Prayer.***

**Psalm 139:23** Search me, O God, and **know my heart**; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Psalm 51:10; Romans 12:1-2

- ***Cultivate Your Heart with Generous Living.***

**Matthew 6:21** (Jesus) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Proverbs 11:25; Matthew 19:21-23

- ***Cultivate Your Heart with Christ-focused Obedience.***

**Ephesians 3:16-17** I pray that ... **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. Hebrews 12:1-3