

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



OR THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR TYPES OF SOIL

Illustrated by Hans Reichelt

THE SOWER

The parable of the sower in **Matthew 13** deals with the inner condition of one's heart. This design shows a beaten path, gravel, thorny soil and good soil. The good soil produces in abundance.

The Parable

Consider this: There was a farmer who went out to sow seeds. 4 As he cast his seeds, some fell along the beaten path and the birds came and ate them. 5 Other seeds fell onto gravel that had no topsoil. The seeds quickly shot up, 6 but when the days grew hot, the sprouts were scorched and withered because they had insufficient roots. 7 Other seeds fell among the thorns and weeds, so when the seeds sprouted, so did the weeds, crowding out the good plants. 8 But other seeds fell on good, rich soil that kept producing a good harvest. Some yielded thirty, some sixty, and some even one hundred times as much as he planted! 9 If you're able to understand this, then you need to respond."

Jesus Explains

18 Now you are ready to listen to the revelation of the parable of the sower and his seeds:

19 The seed that fell on the beaten path represents the heart of the one who hears the message of the kingdom realm but doesn't understand it. The Adversary then comes and snatches away what was sown into his heart. 20 The seed sown on gravel represents the person who gladly hears the kingdom message, but his experience remains shallow.

21 Shortly after he hears it, troubles and persecutions come because of the kingdom message he received. Then he quickly falls away, for the truth didn't sink deeply into his heart.

22 The seed sown among weeds represents the person who receives the message, but all of life's busy distractions, his divided heart, and his ambition for wealth result in suffocating the kingdom message and prevent him from bearing spiritual fruit.

23 As for the seed that fell upon good, rich soil, it represents the hearts of people who hear and fully embrace the message of heaven's kingdom realm. Their lives bear good fruit—some yield a harvest of thirty, sixty, even one hundred times as much as was sown.

Questions to Ponder:

Sit with the Lord and ask Him about the seeds and soil of your life.

What seeds are you holding right now?
Do you know what they will grow?

What are the seeds you'd like God to give you? Ask Him.

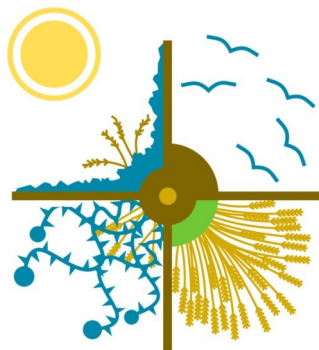
What is the condition of your soil?

What is growing on your life and what is dormant?

When the word of God is scattered, how do you receive it?

How To Sow Seeds Outdoors —101

1. Prepare soil. Use a rake to loosen soil. ...
2. Scatter or dig in seeds depending on the plant ...
3. Moisture matters. After planting, water seeds....
 4. Stake the spot. ...
 5. Identify seedlings. ...
 6. Thin seedlings. ...
 7. Watch for pests.



PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MARK 4:1-9