

Case of the Lavish Farmer

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23.

B. Jesus said that these parables would be open to anyone who would listen to them.

II. The parable of the sewer.

A. Jesus often picked up what was happening right around Him as an illustration.

B. The disciples prompted Jesus for an explanation since there was none. You only have truth when you act on it.

C. Elements of the parable.

1. The seed is the invisible kingdom.

a. All of life is not contained in what can be detected by the senses.

b. In that kingdom is all that man is looking for—the word of the kingdom is the good news—the gospel.

c. In the gospel is the power of God and the righteousness of God.

2. The soil is the human heart.

3. The birds represent the evil one. The devil seeks to take away the good news from the man.

4. The rocky soil represents the shallow life. People that have no depth receive the gospel with joy but the season changes and they deny it.

5. The third type of heart is the one choked by the hunger for riches. Busyness keeps him from the gospel.

6. The good soil bears fruit. It is not a hard heart. It receives the word and understands it. Its life is not shallow. This is the only heart that is genuinely Christian.

D. Hearts can change—a single individual can pass through all of those stages. We must pray that God would make our hearts good soil.

Application questions:

1. How would you explain the parable of the soils to someone who has not heard it?

2. How many of the soils have received salvation? Defend your answer.

3. Are soils fixed? What can a person do to change the condition of his heart?
