

WHAT IS A “GOOD SOIL” CHURCH?

Good Soil Church – Part 1

September 8, 2013

A “good soil” church is a fellowship where people hear the Word, act on it and produce its fruit.

John 20:30-31 (NLT) “The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in Him you will have life by the power of His name.”

The Parable Of The Sower Tells Us ...

- A story about a farmer and his **SOIL**.

Matthew 13:3b-9 (NIV) “A farmer went out to sow his seed.⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

- Not all “hearing” & “seeing” leads to **FAITH**

Matthew 13:10-11 (NIV) “The disciples came to Him and asked, ‘Why do You speak to the people in parables?’¹¹ He replied, ‘Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.’”

Matthew 13:14-16 (NIV) “In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.”

- Not everyone who **PROFESSES** faith... actually possesses faith.

Matthew 13:17-18 (NIV) “For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.¹⁸ Listen then to what the parable of the sower means...”

The Ways People Hear The Gospel...

1. With **NON-RESPONSIVE** hearts.

Matthew 13:19 (NIV) “When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”

James 2:19 (NIV) “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder.”

2. With **SHALLOW** hearts.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV) “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the Word and at once receives it with joy.²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away.”

3. With **DISTRACTED** hearts.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) “The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, making it unfruitful.”

4. With **RECEPTIVE** hearts.

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) “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.”

John 15:8 (NIV) “This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.”

Only “good soil” people can consistently be used by God to produce His kind of fruit!

John 13:34-35 (NIV) “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”