



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

# The Sower: Having A Receptive Heart

Bible Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## Overview of Parables in the New Testament

- A. Parables communicate unknown spiritual truth through ordinary, known events
- B. Parables 'reveal' & 'conceal' truth
- C. Parables invite hearers to respond

## Background To The Parables in Matthew 13

- A. Jesus was confronted by Israel's religious leaders
- B. People were expecting Jesus to bring in a political & militaristic kingdom of God
- C. Jesus speaks in a relevant manner to rural people
- D. Jesus uses the parables in Matthew 13 to force a decision regarding himself

## The Parable of the Seed & the Four Soils (Matt. 13:3-9)

- A. What condition are you in at present? (v. 9)
- B. The sower
  - 1. "The Sower" is Jesus & secondarily faithful preachers/teachers/ministers
  - 2. The parable's focus moves from sower to seed
- C. The seed fell on four soils (vv. 4a, 5a, 7a, 8a)
  - 1. The seed
  - 2. Soil along the path
  - 3. Soil in a rocky area
  - 4. Soil among thorns

- 5. Good soil
- D. What happened to the seed in each soil? (vv. 4b, 5b-6, 7b, 8b)
  - 1. It lay on the surface of the soil & was eaten by birds
  - 2. It grew quickly, but withered under the sun's heat
  - 3. It was choked by the thorns
  - 4. It produced a good harvest
- E. The warning to the hearers

## Jesus Interprets the Parable of the Seed & Soils (Matt. 13:18-23)

- A. Listen to the parable
- B. The seed is the word about God's kingdom
- C. Soil or heart? (vv. 19b)
- D. Consider the obstacles to the seed's growth
  - 1. Unreceptiveness
  - 2. Shallowness
  - 3. Preoccupation
- E. Good soil/heart

## Having A Receptive Heart