
GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY

Isaiah 55:8-11

- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth, making it
bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
- ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish
that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for
which I sent it.

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

The Soil and the Seed

- **A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.**
- **The Seed is God's Word to us**
- **The Soil: Four Types of Soil = Four Conditions of Our Hearts**
 - **The Hardened Soil:** Is my heart beaten down and hard?
 - **The Rocky Soil:** What keeps me from growing deeper in my faith?
 - **The Thorny Soil:** What chokes God's love and peace out of my life?
 - **The Good Soil:** Am I thanking God for the harvest of his love in my life?
- **The Seed: What seed am I sowing?**
 - Love & Joy?
 - Fear & Anger?
- **The Seed determines the harvest.**
 - Galatians 6:7 - *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."*
- **The Sower is Jesus. He sowed his own body and blood for the harvest**