

**WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE SHOULD WE EXPECT TO THE GOSPEL?
THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER Explained
Matthew 13:18-23**

- I. Review: **THE CONTEXT OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (13:1-17)**
- II. THERE ARE **FOUR DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE WORD**, ALL BASED ON THE **CONDITION OF THE HEART: Jesus explains the parable to His disciples (18-23)**
- A. **Basic observations about this parable:**
1. There are four types of soil which represent four types of hearers of His Word (18-23)
 2. The issue is salvation (Luke 8:12)
 3. It is the Word that is sown by God (19, 20, 22, 23, Isaiah 55)
 4. The Word is sown, is heard, reaching the heart (19, 20, 22, 23, Luke 8:12)
 5. All four hear the Word and respond in four different manors (18-23)
 6. Three are not saved, one is (18-23)
 7. Out of the four, one never is identified with true believers, two identify without being truly saved, one is truly saved (18-23)
 8. One unfruitful make-believer apostasies, one unfruitful make-believer remains identified with Christ (21, 22)
 9. Fruit from the Word is the evidence of genuine saving faith (23. misc. passages)
- B. **Jesus commands those who can “hear” to do so (18)**
- C. **Jesus shares three responses to the Word to be warned about and one to be encouraged by (19-23)**
1. **Hearers with unrepentant Hardened Hearts** do not understand the Word and then Satan violently removes it (19)

 2. **Hearers with unrepentant Superficial Hearts** who are initially receptive but immediately fall away when the true reality of following Christ sets in (20-21)

 3. **Hearers with unrepentant Worldly Divided Hearts** are initially receptive, yet never bear fruit (22)

 4. **Hearers with Prepared Repentant Hearts** respond to the Word and bear fruit (23)