



July 19, 2009 – Pastor Will Mackey

## How We Respond to God's Truth Determines the Direction Our Lives Take! *(Matthew 13: 3-9; 18-23)*

### The Main Characters:

- The farmer - Christ
- The seed - God's Word, Truth
- Soils - Human hearts/minds

### Different Ways People Respond to God's Truth:

1. Some of us are like the hard soil found along paths. We hear God's Truth but never get around to allowing it to penetrate into our lives and apply its principles. (4, 19)
2. Some of us are like the shallow soil found around rocky places. We hear God's Truth, initially get excited about it, but never get around to giving our minds to studying its depths so we can really understand it. (5-6, 20-21)
3. Some of us are like the cluttered soil found in thorny places. We hear God's Truth, initially apply it to our lives, but never give it a priority place of influence in our lives. We give equal or more priority to other philosophies of life. (7, 22)
4. Christ wants all of us to be like the good soil. He wants His Truth to penetrate deeply into our hearts/minds/lives. He wants His Truth to be unhindered as it grows and matures us. (8, 23)

### How Should I Respond To Jesus' Teaching Today?

1. Understand that God's purpose in giving us His Truth is to produce spiritual fruit in our lives.
2. Understand that our response to God's Truth will determine how fruitful our lives become. Decide which "soil" type you most identified with?
3. Understand that you and I are in control of how we respond to God's Truth. Our hearts (like soils) can change and begin producing much spiritual fruit.
4. We should respond to God's Truth this way:
  - Immediately apply it and begin living in it
  - Give our minds to studying it and learning its deeper meaning/applications.
  - Refuse to let the worries and pursuits of life control our lives. We should let God and His Truth lead.
5. Remember that in our evangelism efforts, not only are we to speak God's Truth to others but we can also be part of helping them prepare their hearts to receive it.