

# Soil Conditions of the Heart

*Luke 8:1-15*



## Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.

The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses:

Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.



## Luke 8:4-7

When a large crowd was coming together,  
and those from the various cities were journeying to Him,  
He spoke by way of a parable: “The sower went out to sow  
his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road,  
and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.  
Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up,  
it withered away, because it had no moisture.  
Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up  
with it and choked it out.”



## Luke 8:8-10

Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”

As He said these things, He would call out,  
“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that

*seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.”*



## Luke 8:11-13

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

Those beside the road are those who have heard;  
then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart,  
so that they will not believe and be saved.

Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear,  
receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root;  
they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.”



## Luke 8:14-15

“The seed which fell among the thorns,  
these are the ones who have heard, and as they go  
on their way they are choked with worries and riches  
and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.  
But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and good heart,  
and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”





## Main Point

Receptivity to the gospel is dependent upon the soil condition of the heart, so always be tilling the soil of your heart with the gospel.



# Soil Conditions of the Heart

## The Context



# **What was the context?**

## Jesus' supporters



## **Luke 8:1-3**

The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses:

Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.



## Luke 8:1-3

**The twelve** were with Him, and also some women  
who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses:

**Mary** who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons

had gone out, and **Joanna** the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward,

and **Susanna, and many others** who were contributing  
to their support out of their private means.



# What was the context?

Jesus' supporters

Jesus' message



## **Luke 8:1**

Soon afterwards, He began... proclaiming and preaching  
the kingdom of God.



Luke 8:1

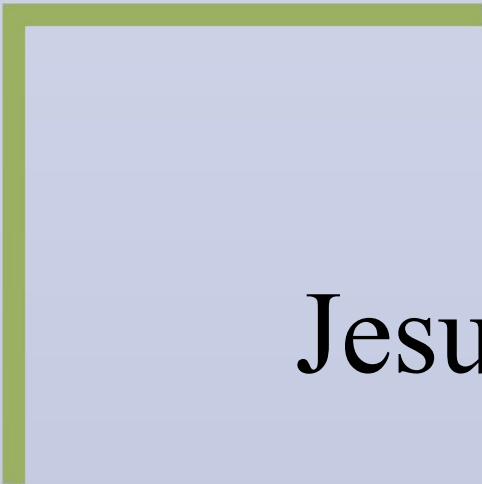
Soon afterwards, He began... **proclaiming and preaching  
the kingdom of God.**



## Luke 8:1

Soon afterwards, He began... *announcing* and *goodnewsing*  
the kingdom of God.





Jesus, the King, had come to inaugurate  
His New Covenant kingdom,  
and He went about announcing its arrival  
and proclaiming the good news of it.



# What was the context?

Jesus' supporters

Jesus' message

Jesus' hearers



## Luke 8:1 and 4

He began going around **from one city and village to another**,  
proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.

Just as He had ministered to the sinners  
*and* to the Pharisees, Jesus went to the cities  
*and* to the villages, showing no partiality  
in the proclamation of His message.



## **Luke 8:1 and 4**

He began going around from one city and village to another,  
proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.

When a large crowd was coming together,  
and those from the various cities were journeying to Him,  
He spoke by way of a parable:



# Soil Conditions of the Heart

The Context

The Conditions



## **Luke 8:5-8**

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.

Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.

Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.

Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”



## Luke 8:5-8

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed,

some fell **beside the road**, and it was trampled under foot  
and the birds of the air ate it up.

Other seed fell on **rocky soil**, and as soon as it grew up,  
it withered away, because it had no moisture.

Other seed fell **among the thorns**;  
and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.

Other seed fell into the **good soil**, and grew up,  
and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”



## Luke 8:9-10

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that *seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.*”



# **What are the soil conditions of the heart?**

Roadside Dirt



## **Luke 8:5**

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.”



## Luke 8:5

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed,

**some fell beside the road**, and it was trampled under foot  
and the birds of the air ate it up.”



## Luke 8:5

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed,

some fell beside the road, and **it was trampled under foot**  
and the birds of the air ate it up.”



## Luke 8:5

“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed,  
some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot

and **the birds of the air ate it up.**”



## **Luke 8:11-12**

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

Those beside the road are those who have heard;  
then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart,  
so that they will not believe and be saved.”



## Luke 8:11-12

“Now the parable is this: **the seed is the word of God.**

Those beside the road are those who have heard;  
then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart,  
so that they will not believe and be saved.”



## Luke 8:11-12

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

**Those beside the road** are those who **have heard**;

then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart,  
so that they will not believe and be saved.”



## Luke 8:11-12

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.  
Those beside the road are those who have heard;

then **the devil comes and takes away the  
word from their heart,**

so that they will not believe and be saved.”



## **Luke 8:11-12**

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

Those beside the road are those who have heard;  
then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart,

***so that they will not believe  
and be saved.”***

## **Luke 7:50**

And He said to the woman,  
“Your faith has saved you.”





Hearts hardened by hearing  
make its soil impenetrable and allow  
Satan to easily pluck it up.

Be careful not to harden your heart  
against God's Word but always be tilling  
it with the gospel!



# What are the soil conditions of the heart?

Roadside Dirt

Rocky Dirt



## **Luke 8:6**

Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up,  
it withered away, because it had no moisture.



## Luke 8:6

Other **seed fell on rocky soil**, and as soon as it grew up,  
it withered away, because it had no moisture.



## Luke 8:6

Other seed fell on rocky soil, and **as soon as it grew up,**  
**it withered away**, because it had no moisture.



## Luke 8:6

Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up,

it withered away, **because it had no moisture.**



## **Luke 8:13**

“Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.”



## Luke 8:13

“**Those on the rocky soil** are those who, **when they hear,**  
***receive the word with joy***; and these have no firm root;  
they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.”



## Luke 8:13

“Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear,

receive the word with joy; and **these have no firm root;**  
**they believe for a while**, and in time of temptation fall away.”

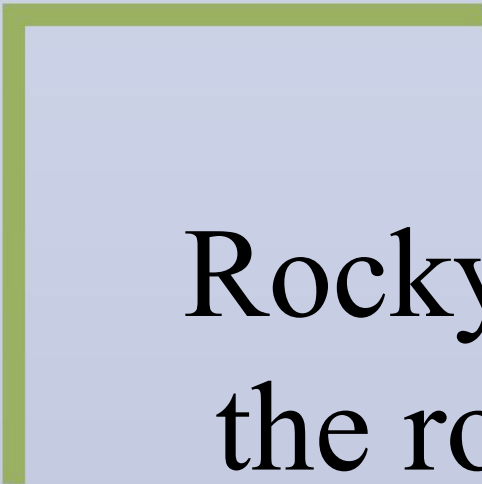


## Luke 8:13

“Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear,  
receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root;

they believe for a while, and **in time of temptation fall away.**”





Rocky soil hearts are shallow hearts, and  
the roots of the gospel do not take hold.

Be careful to be tilling the soil of your heart  
so the roots of the gospel can go deep.



# What are the soil conditions of the heart?

Roadside Dirt

Rocky Dirt

Thorny Soil



## **Luke 8:7**

“Other seed fell among the thorns;  
and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.”



**Luke 8:7**

**“Other seed fell among the thorns,**  
and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.”



## Luke 8:7

“Other seed fell among the thorns;

and **the thorns grew up with it and  
choked it out.”**



## **Luke 8:14**

“The seed which fell among the thorns,  
these are the ones who have heard, and as they go  
on their way they are choked with worries and riches  
and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”



## Luke 8:14

“The seed which fell among the thorns,

**these are the ones who have heard**, and as they go

on their way they are choked with worries and riches  
and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”



## Luke 8:14

“The seed which fell among the thorns,

these are the ones who have heard, and **as they go**

**on their way they are choked *with worries*** and riches  
and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”



## Luke 8:14

“The seed which fell among the thorns,

these are the ones who have heard, and **as they go**

**on their way they are choked *with*** worries and ***riches***  
and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”



## Luke 8:14

“The seed which fell among the thorns,

these are the ones who have heard, and **as they go**

**on their way they are choked *with*** worries and riches

and ***pleasures of this life***, and bring no fruit to maturity.”

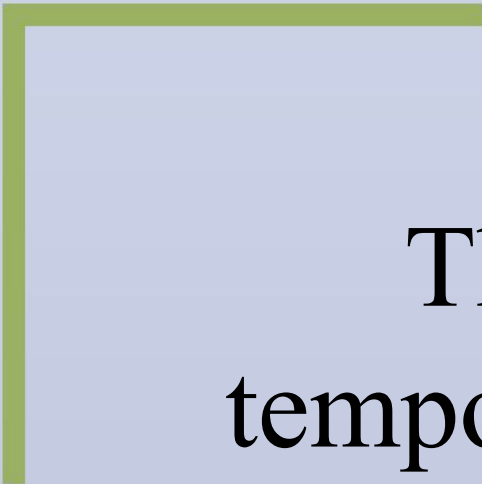


## Luke 8:14

“The seed which fell among the thorns,  
these are the ones who have heard, and as they go  
on their way they are choked with worries and riches

and pleasures of this life, **and bring no fruit to maturity.**”





Thorny hearts are consumed by the  
temporal matters of life and make no room  
for the gospel to flourish.

Be careful not to allow worldly concerns  
and pleasures to crowd out the gospel but  
always be weeding the soil of your heart.



# What are the soil conditions of the heart?

Roadside Dirt

Rocky Dirt

Thorny Soil

Healthy soil



## **Luke 8:8**

“Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up,  
and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”



**Luke 8:8**

**“Other seed fell into the good soil**, and grew up,  
and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”



## Luke 8:8

**“Other seed** fell into the good soil, and **grew up,  
and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”**



## **Luke 8:15**

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the good soil, **these are the ones who**  
**have heard the word** in an honest and good heart,  
and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who

have heard the word **in an *honest* and *good* heart**,  
and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and good heart,

**and hold it fast**, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and good heart,

and hold it fast, **and bear fruit with perseverance.”**





The excellent and upright heart is soft and penetrable, allowing the seed to grow its roots deep and to produce much fruit.

Be tilling the soil of your heart with the gospel so that the gospel may take root and make you fruitful for Christ.



# Soil Conditions of the Heart

The Context

The Conditions

The Conclusions



# **What conclusions should we draw?**

Receptivity to the gospel is dependent  
on the condition of your heart.



## **Luke 8:15**

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the **good soil**, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and good heart,  
and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the **good soil**, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and **good heart**,  
and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”



## Luke 8:15

“But the seed in the **good soil**, these are the ones who  
have heard the word in an honest and **good heart**,  
and hold it fast, and **bear fruit** with perseverance.”

Receptivity and fruitfulness are dependent  
on the soil condition of your heart.



# What conclusions should we draw?

Receptivity to the gospel is dependent on the condition of your heart.

The condition of your heart is God's work not yours.



## **Luke 8:9-10**

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant. And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that  
*seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.”*



## Luke 8:9-10

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

And He said, “**To you *it has been granted* to  
know the mysteries  
of the kingdom of God**, but to the rest it is in parables, so that  
*seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.*”



## Luke 8:9-10

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

And He said, “To you *it has been granted* to know the mysteries

of the kingdom of God, **but *to the rest* it is in parables**, so that  
*seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.”*



## Luke 8:9-10

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

And He said, “To you *it has been granted* to know the mysteries

of the kingdom of God, but *to the rest* it is in parables, **so that**

***seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.***”



## **Luke 8:9-10**

His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

And He said, “To you *it has been granted* to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that

*seeing they may not see,  
and hearing they may not understand.”*

## **Luke 8:8**

**“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**



# What conclusions should we draw?

The Word will not bear fruit unless the soil conditions are good.

The condition of the heart is God's work not ours.

The gospel is the tool God uses  
to till up the soil of your heart.



## Luke 8:8

As He said these things, He would call out,  
**“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**



## **Luke 8:8**

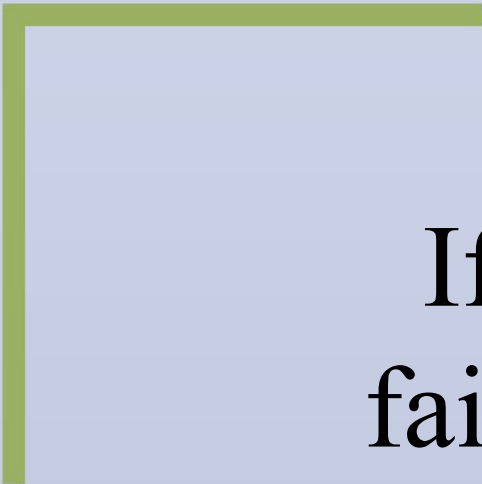
As He said these things, He would call out,

“He who has ears to hear, **let him hear**.”

## **Romans 10:17**

Faith comes from hearing,  
and hearing by the Word of Christ.





If you are to have faith and if your  
faith is to grow, you must *be hearing*  
the Word of Christ, the gospel.

So, be tilling up the soil of your heart with  
the gospel and be bearing fruit for Christ.



# For Reflection

What is the condition of your heart –  
is it hard, rocky, thorny, or soft and healthy?

Are you continually tilling up the soil  
of your heart with the gospel?

Is the fruit of your life *gospel* fruit?

