

The parable of the sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8) reveals remarkable insights on how people respond to the message of the Kingdom of God. These are lessons that are important to each of us, whether we are a new or an experienced Christian.

Consider the thorny soil. The parable says that thorns came up and choked the plants. Jesus explains that thorns are worries, wealth, and the desire for other things, and that these things can prevent us from maturing and from being fruitful. These things can grow up over time and can demand our attention, attract our emotions, and draw us away from God.

It is amazing to realize that how we respond to God's word makes all the difference as to how powerful it will be in our lives. This parable reveals to us how damaging fear and worry and the cares of this world really are. Troubles are a reality of life, but it is how we respond and react to them that matters.

We also live in a society that makes it so easy to get lulled into the pursuit of money, pleasure, or power, because those things appeal to our human nature. When they matter more to us than generosity and following God, they can choke the life out of us. They can slowly wrap themselves around us so that by the time we realize that they have a death grip on us it can be difficult to break free. Thankfully through Christ we have the power to break free from any bondage of the world!

What kind of soil are you? Are there thorns growing that need to be weeded out of your life? The good news of the good soil is that if we persevere, keeping our focus on Jesus and our priorities right, God's word will produce great fruit in our lives.

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## **Tales of the Kingdom**

*Some Get It... Some Don't*

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Mark 4:1-20

### **God's Work in our life...**

**Soil #1 ... depends on our \_\_\_\_\_ openness \_\_\_\_\_.**

Proverbs 28:14

Matthew 13:15

Romans 2:5

**Soil #2 ... coincides with \_\_personal\_\_ \_\_commitment\_\_.**

Ezekiel 33:31

Luke 6:49

**Soil #3 ... has to be our first \_\_priority\_\_\_\_\_.**

Hebrews 12:1-2

Matthew 6:25

**Soil #4 ... is an ongoing process of hearing and obeying.**

James 1:22-25

Luke 11:28