

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. The issue is salvation (Luke 8:12)
2. It is the Word that is sown by God (19, 20, 22, 23, Isaiah 55)
3. The Word is sown is heard, reaching the heart (19, 20, 22, 23, Luke 8:12)
4. All four hear the Word and respond in four different manors (18-23)
5. Three are not saved, one is. (18-23)
6. Out of the four, one never is identified with true believers, two identify without being saved, one is saved (18-23)
7. One make-believer apostasies, one unfruitful make-believer remains identified with Christ (21, 22)
8. 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)