

UNDERSTANDING MAN'S DIFFERING RESPONSES TO THE WORD
WHY SOME RECEIVE THE WORD: Prep for Nehemiah 8
Matthew 13:18-23

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (1-23)

A. A brief overview of **the context** (13:1-17)

B. Some **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)

II. WE ARE TO PAY ATTENTION: Jesus commands those who can "hear" to do so (9, 18)

III. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL and they are all based upon our heart condition (19-23)

A. **Three responses to the Word to be warned about (19-22)**

1. **Hearers with unrepentant Hardened Hearts** do not understand the Word and then Satan violently removes it (3-4, 19)

2. **Hearers with unrepentant Superficial Hearts** who are initially receptive but immediately fall away when the true reality of following Christ sets in (5-6, 20-21)

3. **Hearers with unrepentant Worldly Divided Hearts** are initially receptive, yet never bear fruit (7, 22)

B. **One response to the Word to be encouraged by: Hearers with Prepared Repentant Hearts** respond to the Word and bear fruit (8, 23)