

Determined To Be Good Dirt

Mark. 4:1-20

Parable of four soils spoken to the crowd, 4:1-9

Though Scripture typically identifies two types of people, here we get four types of “spiritual personalities.” *Listen / hear* (vs. 3,9) carefully so that you can figure out which portrays your personality.

¹
Roadside Soil

²
Rocky Soil

³
Thorn-filled Soil

⁴
Good Soil

The purpose of parables, 4:10-13

We will save this for later! Just note for now that the crowd gets no explanation, while the disciples do, as mentioned also in 4:34,35.

Parable of four soils explained to disciples, 4:14-20

- ◆ Recall context of mixed responses to Jesus--crowd, family, Pharisees.
- ◆ Soil #1 (unbelievers) and #4 (productive believers) are easy to grasp, but #2 and #3 are debated. Some see #2's temporariness and #3's unfruitfulness as indicating they are unbelievers (never saved or were saved but later lost their salvation).
- ◆ I'd suggest they both are believers in view of Lk.8:12 and the *joyful receiving of the Word* (4:16), especially in view of Luke's usage of *receive* (Lk. 8:13, 18:17, Acts 11:1, 17:11,12). Plus see I Cor. 3:11ff.
- ◆ Personalities you don't want as a label:
 - One who caves in to pressure--I Pt. 4:12-14, Rev. 2:10, Matt. 5:10.
 - One who cares more for the world--Jn. 2:15, I Tim. 6:27, II Tim. 4:10.
- ◆ Aim for soil #4 (amazing yield of fruit), Jn. 15:2ff., Gal. 5:22, Phil. 1:22. Here we see why people are as they are and how we ought to be.

Do you have an idea of what your “spiritual personality” might be?

What “soil improvements” can help us become better dirt?



