

## THE ATTITUDES NEEDED FOR GROWTH

#SermonAttitude

Essentials For Growth Part 7

Dr. Mark Jackson - September 22, 2019

Jesus' Story of the Soils: Luke 8:4-15

Farmer = God    Seed = God's Word    Soil = Heart

### 1. I MUST HAVE A RECEPTIVE ATTITUDE

**Luke 8:5** A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds came and ate it. (NLT)

**Luke 8:12** The hard path where some seed fell represents the hard hearts of those who hear the words of God, but then the devil comes and steals the words away and prevents people from believing and being saved. (LB)

The hardened path = A CLOSED MIND

**James 1:21b** Don't be proud but accept God's teaching that is planted in your hearts. This teaching can save your souls. (ICB)

### 2. I MUST HAVE A RESOLVED ATTITUDE

**Luke 8:6** Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow, but soon withered and died for lack of moisture. (LB)

**Luke 8:13** Some people are like seeds on rocky soil. They welcome the word with joy whenever they hear it, but they don't develop any roots. They believe for a while, but when their faith is tested, they abandon it. (GW)

The shallow soil = A SUPERFICIAL COMMITMENT

**Matthew 7:26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. (NIV)

**James 1:22** Don't only hear the message, but put it into practice, otherwise you are merely deluding yourselves. (PH)

**1 Timothy 4:7** Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit. (PH)

### 3. I MUST HAVE A RUTHLESS ATTITUDE

**Luke 8:7** Some seed fell among **thorny weeds**, but the weeds grew up with it and choked the good plants. (NCV)

**Luke 8:14** The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is **crowded out** by the **cares** and **riches** and **pleasures** of this life. And so they **never grow into maturity**. (NLT)

The soil with weeds = **A CROWDED LIFE**

**Luke 8:15** And the seed that fell on the **good ground** is like those who **hear** God's teaching with good, honest hearts and **obey** it and patiently produce good fruit. (NCV)

**Jeremiah 4:3-4** This is what the LORD says... "Plow up **the hard ground of your hearts!** Do not waste your good seed among thorns. <sup>4</sup> ...**surrender** your pride and power. **Change your hearts** before the LORD, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. (NLT)