

THE JOURNEY
THE PURSUIT OF CHRISTLIKENESS

PART 2
Let's Define Christ-Unlikeness

MATTHEW 13:3-8

A farmer went out to sow seed. As he scattered it, some fell along the path, where birds came and ate it. Some fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

MATTHEW 13:18-23

Listen to what the parable means: if anyone hears God's word but doesn't understand it, the evil one snatches what was sown in their heart. That's the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground is one who joyfully receives the word, but they have no root, and last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

MATTHEW 13:18-23

The seed falling among the thorns refers to one who hears the word, but the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to one who hears the word and understands it. That one produces a crop yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

UNDERSTANDING
THE PARABLE

The Parable of the Soil is primarily a teaching about **spiritual growth.**

God created us with the capacity to grow.



UNDERSTANDING
GOD'S HEART

God hopes and expects his children to grow into

CHRISTLIKENESS:

to look, think, act and be like his Son.

UNDERSTANDING
GOD'S HEART

Far too often, God's children are stuck in **Christ-unlikeness.**

"Being conformed to the image of Christ [must begin] primarily at the point of our unlikeness to his image."

ROBERT MULHOLLAND

BARRIERS TO GROWTH

1 HARDENED SOIL

"As he scattered it, some fell along the path, where birds came and ate it."



HOW THE SOIL BECOMES HARD

SIN:

"Encourage one another...so you are not hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

HEBREWS 3:13

HOW THE SOIL BECOMES HARD

DISAPPOINTMENT:

"But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back [in suffering]."

HEBREWS 10:38

HOW THE SOIL BECOMES HARD

BITTERNESS:

"See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

HEBREWS 12:15

BARRIERS TO GROWTH

Hardened soil represents **spiritual callousness**.

The Growth Catalyst:
repent of it and release it.



BARRIERS TO GROWTH

2 SHALLOW SOIL


"Some fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil."



BARRIERS TO GROWTH

Shallow soil represents a **causal attitude toward God**.


The Growth Catalyst:
repent of it and return.



BARRIERS TO GROWTH

3 CLUTTERED SOIL

"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."



**BARRIERS
TO GROWTH**

Cluttered soil
represents **unguarded
priorities.**

The Growth Catalyst:
repent of it and
reprioritize.





**FRUITFULNESS BEYOND
COMPREHENSION**

*"The good soil represents the hearts of those who
truly accept God's message and produce a huge
harvest—thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as
much as had been planted."*

MATTHEW 13:23 (NLT)

"It is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit."

JOHN 15:8