

Topic: Heart Issue
Text: **Matthew 13:3-8; 19-23 (NIV)**
Theme: “How does your heart respond to God’s Word?”

Optional Introduction

- Man’s central organ is the heart. It pumps blood to every part of the body; with it and its function, life is possible.
- Figuratively speaking, the heart connotes one’s attitude. Its condition is the real issue with God as Solomon once shared: *All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart* (Proverbs 21:2). A heartless person is understood to be cruel and shameless, a good-natured individual is gracious and full of mercy.
- Of the 35 parables of Jesus, the Parable of the Sower expounds man’s heart conditions. There are various possible responses to the Word of God, which depend on one’s heart affairs.
- This parable displays the Biblical metaphorical allusions of the seed sown by the farmer as God’s Word, the soil as man’s heart, and the bird who eats the seed as Satan.

I. **SOME SEEDS FELL BY THE WAY SIDE**

V4a As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path ...

A. Characteristics of the heart

1. Hard
2. Lifeless
3. Dried

B. Heart’s response (Satanic opposition)

1. The seeds did not grow.
2. The seeds were trampled on (Luke 8:5)

C. Application

1. The bird is Satan who immediately takes away the seed.

V4b ... and the birds came and ate it up

Mark 4:15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

2. Doesn't understand the Word of God.
V19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path

II. **SOME SEEDS FELL UPON ROCKY PLACES**

V5a Some fell on rocky places ...

A. Characteristics of the heart

1. Not much soil
V5b ... where it did not have much soil.
2. No deepness
V5c It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.
3. No enough moisture
Luke 8:6 Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

B. Heart's response (Outside persecution and peer pressure)

1. The seeds grew quickly.
2. But no root
V6b ... because they had no root.

C. Application

1. The sun scorched and withered the plants.
V6a But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched ...
2. Receives the Word with joy.

V20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy

3. Lives for a while.

V21a But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time.

4. They fall away in times of trials.

V21b When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away

III. SOME SEEDS FELL AMONG THE THORNS

V7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants

A. Characteristics of the heart

1. Has enough fertilizer to grow the seeds
2. Has thorn growing up with the seeds

B. Heart's response (Attraction to world's pressure)

1. Hears the Word.
2. Agrees with those who hear.
Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

C. Application

1. The worries and riches choked the Word.
V22b ... but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful
2. Unfruitful.
V22c ... making it unfruitful

3. The thorns ate up the plants.
V7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants

CONCLUSION:

- Become fruitful
V8a Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop...
- Hears the Word
V23a But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word ...
- Understands the Word
V23b ... and understands it.
- Produces 100, 60, 30 times
V8b ... a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown