

# Bite Size Bible Study

## Parable of the 4 Soils #130

By Pastor Lee

In Luke 8 we encounter the parable of the four soils, aka Parable of the Seeds. I am calling it the four soils because the seed is the same in every case but the soil is different with each person. We have heard many sermons on the subject, but how many of us have taken the time to become the good soil. We hear the parable and for some it goes “in one ear and out the other”. Others think about it a little but by next week it is far from their thoughts. Still others think about it a little and by Monday when they go to work or begin again their weekly routine it has lost it’s importance in their lives.

*A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”*

**“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”**

Here is my understanding of what the meaning of this parable is:

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God and about His character has been given to us in our Bible and in the words of those who know God. But not all of us are listening or making it a part of our lives and character.

The seed is the Word of God, His teachings aka His Torah (not law). Jesus came to be the living Torah, to bring the Torah off the parchment into real life, for those who could see and understand.

So some hear what is being said but they may not see nor do they understand the importance of the concept being taught.

Those along the path are the ones who hear with their ears but do nothing to study and gain understanding, so what they have heard never goes past their ears. They neither believe nor gain understanding.

That seed that falls on rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but it fails to take root. They believe for a while, but when the time to put that knowledge into action, it escapes them and they

fail to use it and eventually forget the little understanding that they once had.

The seed that falls among thorns stands for those who hear, but continue to live as they always have, not allowing what they have heard to make positive changes in their lives. Daily living such as work, family, leisure time, and the collection of all the latest “toys” chokes the life from them and they don’t mature.

But the seed on good soil stands for those who hear the word. They study it, retain it, and discuss it with the Holy Spirit who then gives them understanding and helps them to put that understanding into practice. This person will continually modify their priorities to those of our Rabbi and teacher. His life will be a continual reminder of a life useful in the Kingdom.

*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6-7*

Since the Jesus is the living Word of God, He is saying that the Torah is *the way the truth and the life*, and that the Word of God is this way. If we really know Jesus’ character, we will know the Father’s character and His Word (His teaching). By knowing and reflecting that character in our own lives we will be living as the “good soil”.

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26*

Now with that said it is imperative that I add that not everyone will be able to be “good soil” in this lifetime. Even those who have “good soil” in parts of their lives may not have it during all of their lives. *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* Some people due to circumstances in their lives will not be open to the “good soil” concept. They will have their chance at a future time. We are not to shun these people, because who knows that the “good soil” may be the catalyst to help them change.

Jesus once said: *“My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s Word and **put it into practice.**”*

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