



Cultivating the Kingdom of God in YOU

A Heart That Receives

Leader's Notes

I. The Kingdom of God

- A natural harvest starts with planting a seed in good soil.
- To receive a harvest in our lives, we must have good heart soil to receive the kingdom of God and reap a harvest.
- Matthew 6:10, *"May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."* That is the kingdom of God—His will being done here on earth.
- A true harvest comes from not only receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior, but also from putting His kingdom first place.
- Matthew 6:33, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,"* (NKJV).
- When we put God's way of doing things first, we won't have to struggle with the world's system of getting our needs met.
- We have a part to play.

II. Four Types of Heart Soil

- Found in the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4
- First type of soil is the pavement-like heart.
 - Mark 4:14-15, *"The farmer sows the word. 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,"* (NIV).
 - It is easy for the devil to steal the Word from people who are stubborn, prideful or unwilling to yield to anyone, including God.
- Second type of soil is a stony ground heart.



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- Mark 4:16-17, *“Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away,” (NIV).*
- This heart receives the Word with joy, but because the soil is left untended, roots grow. When troubles come, this heart blames God and turns away, rather than toward the truth in His Word.
- The third type of soil is a thorny-ground heart.
 - Mark 4:18-19, *“Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful,” (NIV).*
 - This hearer received the Word of God. This could even be someone who identifies as Christian. But, over time, worries, fears and troubles become more real than the truth in God’s Word.
- The fourth type of soil is one that Jesus describes as good soil.
 - Mark 4:20, *“Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop...” (NIV).*
 - How is this soil different from the other three? This heart not only accepts the Word, but also *cultivates* what has been sown.



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Confession

I desire to have the type of heart that receives the Word of God and puts it first place in my life. I will diligently seek to remove those things which hinder me from receiving a full harvest and operating in the fullness of God.

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