

Dirt

Matthew 13:1-9

- Sower
- Seed
- Wayside, where the birds ate the seed
- Stony, where the seed sprung up quickly and dies equally quick because of the lack of depth of the roots
- Thorny, where the seed is choked out by the thorns
- Good, produced bountifully

Matthew 13:10-17

- Access to the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven
- **Matthew 13:12 NLT** - To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.
- Jesus spoke a blessing over those who keep their eyes and ears open to his words.

Matthew 13:18-23

Every person we encounter has the potential to receive God's Word and to bear fruit. Every person can become rich, fertile dirt!

False Assumptions

- Good dirt people have less trouble and distractions than the others.
- Persecution suggests that the person is doing something wrong.
- If you don't feel euphoric about God and church as you once did, then there is something wrong with either you or there is something wrong with the church.

Truth

- Trouble and potential distractions come to good dirt people just like everyone else. They simply don't yield to them. They keep following Jesus no matter what comes.
- Persecution may indicate that the person is right on track with God. Satan is attacking them to try to get them to quit.
- Feelings come and go. Faith is constant and reliable. If you follow your feeling, you may lose your faith. If you walk by faith, feelings will follow.

Evaluate Yourself: What kind of dirt are you?