

The Parable of the Soils
Luke 8:1-15

1. Read the parallel passage of the parable of the soils in Matthew 13:9.
 - A. What was the fatal flaw of the one sown along the path?
 - B. What is Peter's exhortation in the first part of 1 Peter 5:8?
 - C. According to the second part of 1 Peter 5:8, what does the devil do?
 - D. How might these passages motivate us to be more alert when God's word goes forth?
2. The way in which we handle trials, temptations, tribulations, testing and persecution to a great extent defines us.
 - A. What was Job's response to his severe trials and tribulations? Job 1:20–22
 - B. Considering what the persecuted heroes of the faith endured (see Hebrews 11:35b-40); how are they described in 11:38a?
 - C. How did Job's wife handle their trials? Job 2:9
 - D. How does Revelation 9:20–21 describe the rest of mankind who were not killed by the plagues?
 - E. What insights and encouragements does James 1:2-4 give us on this subject?
3. Read Revelation 2:4–6.
 - A. Why did Christ rebuke the church at Ephesus?
 - B. What was the solution Christ gave them?
 - C. What was his warning to them?
4. Read Revelation 3:15–19.
 - A. Why did Christ rebuke the church at Laodicea?
 - B. What was the solution Christ gave them?
 - C. What was his warning to them?
 - D. Which one of the four soils best corresponds to these two churches?
5. Since the seed is the gospel and the heart is the soil; then what near term and long-term fruit will be produced by that which lands on good soil? Will it reproduce?
6. Why did some in the crowd have ears to hear and others did not? See Matthew 13:10-17
7. When the disciples did not understand the parable, what did they do? See Luke 8:9.
 - A. How might their example help us in our own lives when we do not understand something in the Bible?
 - B. Since Christ is not physically present, how are we to practically inquire of him now?
8. A healthy plant requires care to remain healthy and to bear fruit. What care can we take as believers to remain healthy and increase our fruit production?