

"Distinguishing the Family from the Crowd"

The Gathering Crowds

"The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them." (Kyle Idleman, *Not a Fan*)

The Parable (v. 4-15)

1. The seed is the **WORD** of God.
2. The sower is the **MESSENGER** who communicates the word of God.
3. The soils represent the human **HEARTS** that respond to the word of God.
 - a. The Hard Soil - This person *hears* the word of God but it is **PLUCKED** away before it can penetrate the heart.
 - b. The Rocky Soil - This person *hears* the word of God and receives it with great emotion, but it **WITHERS** when difficulties come.
 - c. The Weedy Soil - This person *hears* the word of God, receives it and experiences some growth, but is ultimately **CHOKED OUT**.
 - d. The Good Soil - This person *hears* the word of God, receives it, holds on to it, and produces much **FRUIT**.

The Point (v. 16-18)

1. The word of God is like the **LIGHT** of a lamp (Ps. 119:105)
2. The light of God's word **REVEALS**.
3. We ought to carefully consider how we **RESPOND** to the word of God.

The Punch (v. 19-21)

1. Inclusion in the kingdom of God is not determined by **BIOLOGY** or ethnicity.
2. Those who are included in Jesus' family are those who hear the word of God and **DO** it.

"So in case someone left it out or forgot to mention it when they explained what it meant to be a Christian, let me be clear: There is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no salvation without surrender. There is no life without death. There is no believing without committing." (Kyle Idleman, *Not a Fan*)

Conclusion