

# The Sower

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: Luke 8:5-8, 11-15

Jesus often used parables in His teaching – using an everyday illustration to describe a spiritual truth. In this parable, Jesus talked about a sower who went out to sow his seed. Many points could be made from this, but we are going to attempt to identify the MAIN point. Once we do that, we'll see how we can apply this in our lives.

## Context

- Jesus had been preaching from village to village (v. 1) – His disciples were with Him (v. 1) along with some of the women (v. 2-3); a large crowd was coming together to Him (v. 4)
- This was not an intimate or small gathering – it would have been one of the larger crowds to which He spoke

## Basic Point

- We often use this parable to make points about evangelism – sowing the seed, reception of those we teach, etc.; it is appropriate to make these points
- However, the main point is stated by Jesus at the end of the parable – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear” (v. 8); a similar point is made a few verses later (v. 18)
- The main point of the parable is for us to examine ourselves to see if we are listening to God’s word in the right way – a way that will be fruitful

## Examination

- The sower sowed his seed, the seed fell on four different types of soils (Luke 8:5-8) – each type of soil produced a different result [briefly explain]; Jesus then stated the point (v. 8)
- The disciples asked Jesus about the parable (v. 9) – He explained that they would know the mystery, but others would not understand (v. 10)
- Explanation of the four soils (Lk. 8:11-15) – the seed was the word; the soils represented hearts [briefly explain]
- The point was not for them to test the “soil” before they sowed the seed – the point was for each one to test his own heart to make sure it will be receptive to the seed

## Application

- We must be open to listening to God’s word – described elsewhere as being “noble-minded” (Acts 17:11)

- We must guard against evil influences which will steer us away from God's word (v. 12; 1 Corinthians 15:33)
- We must not be so shallow that we change our convictions based upon our circumstances (v. 13; Ephesians 4:14)
- We must avoid getting caught up in the (temporary) worries, riches, and pleasures of life (v. 14; Matthew 6:33-34)
- We need to develop a good and honest heart (v. 15) – a “good” heart is inclined to do what is right; an “honest” heart is willing to fairly evaluate new information; we cannot be biased for our opinions (Proverbs 18:2); we must have the humility to recognize that we could be wrong (cf. Acts 18:24-26); we must strive to act according to what we know to be right (James 4:17), even if it's newly-learned

### **Conclusion**

- God created us with the ability to hear and understand His will (Proverbs 20:12)
- Let's examine ourselves to be sure we're listening in a way that's profitable, fruitful, and pleasing to God