



THE ROAD FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST

Take a Soil Test

Read [Matthew 13:1-9](#)

“Still others fell on good ground and produced a crop: some 100, some 60, and some 30 times what was sown.” Matthew 13:8

Jesus addressed a large crowd of people, telling a parable (an earthly story with a heavenly meaning) to talk about a person’s heart. As the farmer scattered seed, it fell along the path, on rocky ground, among thorns, and on good soil. Jesus desires for His followers to have hearts (soil) that yield a harvest.

What is the present condition of your heart? In Jesus’ parable, He talks about four kinds of soil (hearts):

- (1) A calloused heart. This person lacks spiritual expectations, goes through the motions, and relates to God with a selfish agenda.
- (2) A shallow heart. This person is often immature in the faith. It is possible to be a mile wide and an inch deep.
- (3) A distracted heart. This person battles the worries of life.
- (4) A productive heart. This person lives his or her life to fulfil God’s mission.

In order to plant a garden, the ground (soil), must first be broken. If you desire to yield a spiritual harvest, brokenness is often what God uses.

Are you willing to be broken for God’s glory? What is currently breaking your heart and spirit? What kind of soil are you?

Ask the Lord today to show you the real condition of your heart. If you have a calloused, shallow, or distracted heart, allow the Lord to change you. He wants you to have a productive heart, meaning a heart that loves Him, builds His church, and expands His kingdom.

Self-Examination

Christians must see their sinfulness the way God sees it...

Preparation:

- Praise God for who He is
- Confess your sinfulness and need for cleansing
- Allow His Spirit to draw you near

Ask God to:

- Search through your life and reveal any sin

- Help you be honest with Him about your sin
- Fill you with a deep desire for holiness
- Help you hate the sin in your life
- Help you surrender sinful thoughts and practices
- Help you live more faithfully
- Restore any lost joy in your walk with Him

Thanksgiving:

- Thank God for hearing you
- Trust that God is at work to accomplish His will

Prayer

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Thy presence and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12