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# THE GOOD SOIL

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## PART 2: THE SHALLOW SOIL

### Introduction

Jesus came and taught many kingdom truths in the form of parables.

These were “earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.”

*It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.*

*Proverbs 25:2*

### The Rocky Soil

*And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

*Luke 8:4-8*

### The Shallow Soil

When you are planting seed, when you have just skimmed the top layer of grass off the dirt, but haven't yet dug deep, the soil can look fine.

But just below the surface, it's hard. Rock hard. Dry. Impenetrable.

When we read this same parable in Matthew's gospel, he adds a few more details:

*Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.*

*Matthew 13:5-6*

## People's Shallow Soil

*And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.***

*Luke 8:9-13*

What is the rock?

## Times of Testing

Luke 4 – Jesus is tested and tempted by the Devil

At the core of Jesus' testing is this question: *Is God enough?*

## The Good Soil

*As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.*

*Luke 8:15*

## Getting Rid of the Rocks

Pay attention

Patience

*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

*Philippians 1:6*

## Questions for Group Study

1. How comfortable do you feel reading Jesus' parables and understanding them?
2. Has God ever revealed deeper meaning to you from the parables? Share your experiences.
3. In the Parable of the Sower, have you ever known someone who had shallow soil and fell away quickly? Maybe over weeks or months?
4. What did you see in that person's life that may have warned you? What similarities did you see in your life at the time?
5. When we examine our own hearts, there are often hard places. What are some of the causes of the hard places in your life?
6. How has that impacted your faith journey?
7. If we take the idea of "Times of Testing" as situations where we have to choose if God is enough for us, have you ever been tested in this way?
8. What was the situation and how did you handle it?
9. What stopped you from falling away?
10. What disciplines or practices have you established in your life in order to keep making your soil deeper?
11. Spend some time praying for one another that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see God's sufficiency in all things, and His faithfulness to each of us.
12. If you are aware of hard places in your life, why not spend some time with God, asking Him to help you deal with those issues?