

The background of the slide is a photograph of a field of wheat. The wheat stalks are tall and thin, with some heads of wheat visible. The color is a warm, golden-brown, suggesting it is ripe. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

# PARABLE *of the* SOWER

**Matt 11:25-26** “At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”



**V5** says that some seed - some Word - "fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot and the birds of the air ate it up."

**V12** interprets, "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved."

**V6** says that "Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture."

**V13** interprets: "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away."

V7 says that "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out."

V14 interprets: "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity."

V8 says, "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."

V15 interprets: "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."

## Luke 8:8-10

“As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” 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.”

## Luke 8:18

"So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him." New American Standard

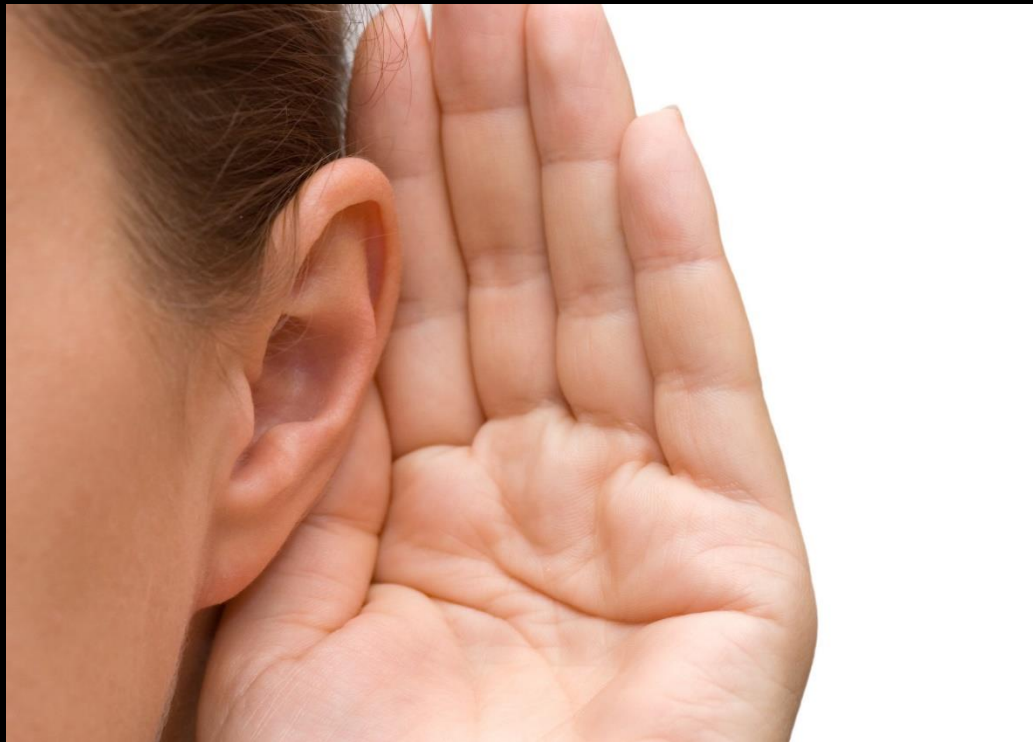


- **V12, 1st soil**: they think they have the Word, but the devil snatches it away.
- **V13, 2nd soil**: they think they have the Word and true spiritual faith and joy, but they have no root to sustain them in time of trial. Their faith is a superficial enthusiasm that is real only for fair weather days. And so when the trial comes, what they think they have is taken away.
- **V14, 3rd soil**: they think they have the Word of God, but when the worries and riches and pleasures of life come, what they think they have is taken away, and they fail to bear fruit.

**V16-17** "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light."



Ps 40:6 " Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear."



- Pray for a good heart
- Meditate on the Word
- Purify your mind –James 1:21
- Trust in the truth you already have – Jer 17:7-8
- Bear with one another – Ps 106:25
- Come with meekness and humility – James 1:21
- Think hard about what is sung, taught and prayed 1 Cor 14:20 Pr 2:3-5