

Root Issues 2

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God wants you to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.

The “Mystery of the Kingdom of God” is the operation of the Word of God in the heart of the believer.

Proverbs 4:20-23 – ²⁰ My son, give attention to my words [*seeds*]; Incline your ear to my sayings [*seeds*]. ²¹ Do not let them [*seeds of my Word*] depart from your eyes; Keep them [*the seeds of my Word*] in the midst of your heart [*ground*]; ²² For they [*seeds of my Word*] are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³ Keep or protect your heart [*ground*] with all diligence, for out of it [*the ground of your heart*] spring the issues or forces of life (*out of your ground grows your garden*).

There are four kinds of ground or soil.

Wayside ground – no fruit:

Mark 4:14-15 – ¹⁴ The sower sows or plants the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

- Satan is coming for the seed
- No seed and no expectation mean no harvest
- Indifferent to the power of the *smallest of all (Mark 4:31)* seeds

Stony ground – no fruit:

Mark 4:16-17 – ¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble, fall and give up.

- “For the Word’s Sake” the test comes
- Growth occurred but ultimately there was still no harvest
- They need patience: the ability to remain in steadfast in faith during the “growing season”
- People quit because their expectations are not met

Thorny ground – no fruit:

Mark 4:18-19 - ¹⁸ Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- Wrong things are growing and choke the Word
- People who were once fruitful become unfruitful

Good ground – fruit by degree:

Mark 4:20 – ²⁰ But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, and accept and keep it, and bear fruit: some produce thirtyfold, some produce sixtyfold, and some produce a hundredfold and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams."

- Good ground keeps the seed in the ground
- You maintain good ground by protecting your heart from wayside, stony, thorny ground