

I. The Sower: Jesus Christ

A. Jesus sows the seeds of truth

B. Jesus sows the seed through us

“We are therefore God’s ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

II. The Seed: The Word of God

A. It is living and powerful

“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joint and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

B. It demands a response

III. The Soil: The Human Heart

A. The hard heart

1. The seed never takes root

2. The seed of truth is taken away by the devil

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:4)

B. The shallow heart

1. The seed takes root quickly

2. Trouble reveals a shallow heart

3. Trouble leads to falling away

C. The crowded heart

1. The seed is choked out by worry

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

2. The seed is choked out by wealth

“I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:23)

3. The seed is choked out by pleasure

D. The receptive heart

1. The word is heard, understood, and accepted

“We also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

2. The word produces an abundant harvest

“I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)