

## SERMON NOTES

Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23 (Mark 4:1-8; 14-20)

PRAYER: LEARNING TO LISTEN TO GOD

FIRST SOIL: STONY PATH – v. 4, 19

*It represents a \_\_\_\_\_, hard heart and mind.*

Listening principle: Cultivate an \_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind.

SECOND SOIL: SHALLOW GROUND - ROCKY PLACES – v. 5, 20,21

*It represents a \_\_\_\_\_, superficial heart and mind*

Listening principle: Take time to \_\_\_\_\_, really listen.

THIRD SOIL: THORNY GROUND - v. 7, 22

*It represents a preoccupied, \_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind*

Christ defines the thorns in v. 22:

1. Worries of this life - is a business word; means distractions and worries
2. Deceitfulness of wealth – wealth promises more than it can deliver – aren't we all seeing that right now
3. Mark 4:19 – Mark's account of this parable adds: "Desire for other things"

Listening principle: eliminate the \_\_\_\_\_.

FOURTH SOIL: GOOD GROUND – V. 8, 23

Matt. 13:23 – "hears and understands"

Mark 4:20 – "hear and accept it"

Luke 8:15 – "hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

*It represents a fruitful, \_\_\_\_\_ heart and mind.*

Listening principle: \_\_\_\_\_ what you hear from God.

But when you hear, how do you know it's from God?

Is it \_\_\_\_\_? What you hear from God will NEVER contradict the Bible.

Is it \_\_\_\_\_? (ethical, moral) "It's never right to do wrong, even to get a chance to do right."

Is it Providential? (open doors – but sometimes you have more than one!)

Is it confirmed? – multitude of counselors – check it out!

Do I have the \_\_\_\_\_ of God? Col. 3:15

What if I'm not sure? If you can't get a clear answer, make sure you're in God's will now. If so, stay in God's will until He gives you the word to make a change.

