

# ††† SERMON NOTES †††

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

## LEARNING TO LISTEN TO GOD

Rinker: “Prayer is a conversation between 2 people who love each other.”

FIRST SOIL: STONY PATH – v. 4, 19

*IT REPRESENTS A CLOSED, HARD HEART AND MIND.*

LISTENING PRINCIPLE: CULTIVATE AN OPEN HEART AND \_\_\_\_\_

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, CLUTTERED 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, WILLING HEART AND MIND*

LISTENING PRINCIPLE: \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT YOU HEAR FROM GOD

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

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

Is it right? (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 peace 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.

Where can I carve out some time with God?

