

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the Word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away.

The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, making it unfruitful. Matthew 13:19-22(NIV)

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the Word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Matthew 13:23(NIV)

When in doubt, check the soil.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a <u>noble</u> and <u>good</u> heart, who <u>hear</u> the Word, retain it, and by <u>persevering</u> produce a crop. Luke 8:15(NIV)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1. Which kind of soil best represents your heart's current condition?
- 2. What needs to happen to transform the quality of your heart's soil?