Introduction
Every farmer knows if you want to grow healthy crops, you need good soil.
The same thing is true spiritually.
If you want to produce good fruit, you’ve got to be good soil.

I. The key to understanding the parables (and all of Scripture) is Christ. Verses 1-10
If you don’t know Jesus, nothing else will make sense.
There is a mystery here that can only be known by revelation from God. Verse 10
When Saul was converted, “something like scales fell from his eyes” and he saw clearly. Acts 9:18
“Those who are not willing to receive Jesus’ message will find the truth hidden from them.”
“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they
are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.
The spiritual man makes judgments about all things.” I Corinthians 2:14-15a
Knowing Jesus is the key to understanding his word.

II. The four soils represent four types of people. Verses 11-15
The sower is anyone who proclaims God’s word.
The seed is the word of God.
The four soils represent four response to the word.
• The Hard Heart – is hardened by sin.
• The Shallow Heart – There is a profession of faith but it is not genuine. There’s no root there.
• The Distracted Heart – They hear the word but it gets choked out by other things – whether worries, riches or pleasures.
• The Good Heart – It is open and receptive to God’s word. They bear much fruit for God.
Which soil is saved? The only one we are certain of is the fourth soil
How do we become good soil?

Every soil needs a Gardner. The Master Gardner knows what we need to amend the soil and break up our hard hearts.

We need to do our part. We need to hear and follow Jesus.

We come to God on his terms and not our own.

III. The people who grow in their relationship with God are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice. Verses 16-21

The Parable of the Sower is not about a moment in time. It is a way of life.

We see that emphasized in the stories that follow.

The Lamp on the Stand

- God’s word is light. It is truth.
- God’s word will be vindicated.
- So listen well! Matthew 7:7-8 and John 14:21

The Story of Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

- Jesus replies that my true family are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.

Conclusion

Are we good soil?

Is this the pattern of my life?

Am I bearing fruit for Christ?