

Stories with Intent
Am I Missing My Heart's Response to the Word?
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel [good news] of the kingdom." (Mt. 9:35)

Question: Why is the good news of the kingdom, good news for some but not for others?

I. The Parable Proper (1-7)

II. The Parable Explained (18-23)

- A. The Interpretive Key (19):
 - 1) seed = word of the kingdom
 - 2) soil = the heart
- B. The Four Soils/Hearts:
 - 1) The hard heart (19)
 - 2) The shallow heart (20-21)
 - 3) The divided heart (22)
 - 4) The receptive heart (23)

III. The Personal Question: Which type of heart is mine?

IV. Our Only Hope

"And I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes." (Ezekiel 36:26-27a)

Point to Ponder: What does the heart exam of this parable reveal?

Next Week:

Next Sunday morning we will continue our sermon series entitled *Stories with Intent* by considering **Matthew 13:24-30,36-43** 'Am I Missing The Certainty of God's Plan?'

