Sermon Notes

Matthew 13 **July 12, 2026**

Tales from the Christ
What Kind of Soil?

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I. Introduction: A Glimpse into Sermon Writing

II. Matthew 13

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. [2] Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. [4] As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, **some fell along the path and** ***the birds came and ate it up.***

Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. But other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. [9] Whoever has ears, let them hear."

III. Four Kinds of Soil/Hearts

A. Hard Soil/Rocky Soil/Thorny Soil/Good Soil

B. How shall we interpret this?

1. Used to judge other people's hearts?
2. Used to diagnose our own hearts?
3. Used to change our hearts to good soil?

IV. Why is This So Hard?

A. "On that same day"

1. What happened earlier that day?
2. How is this parable in response to those events?

B. Scatter the seed carelessly, lavishly, abundantly. . .why?