

LESSON 7
SOILED AGAIN!
MATTHEW 11:1—13:58



1 What is the most successful gardening experience you've ever had?

2 What enabled your garden to do so well?



Read Matthew 11:1—13:58 and the following notes:

☐ 13:2, 3 ☐ 13:8 ☐ 13:9 ☐ 13:10 ☐ 13:22 ☐ 13:23

3 In the parable of the four soils, what happened to the seed the farmer planted (13:4–8)?

4 Why did only some of the seed produce a crop?

5 What four common responses do people have to God's Word (13:19–23)?

6 Why does God's Word make a lasting difference in the lives of some people but not in the lives of others?

The people who heard Jesus speak responded to his message in many different ways. Some scoffed. Some followed him as long as it was easy. Some, like Judas, followed for a little while but then were lured away by the concerns of this world. And some followed till the end. These four basic actions cover the range of response God's Word has always received. There are many forces working against a person's full commitment to God's Word: The Devil, shallow conviction, worry, and money can all lure us away from following God's truth. Our challenge is to understand God's Word and put it into practice in our life.



7 We know that the gospel is true. So why doesn't everyone respond to it positively?

8 What steps can a person take to be like the good soil in receiving God's message?

9 How could a person who is like one of the first three kinds of soil become like the good soil?



10 What can we do to stop the Devil from snatching away God's message before it takes root in a person's heart?

11 What kinds of trouble or persecution test the strength of a Christian's conviction?

12 What worries in this life can choke out faith in Christ?

13 What practical steps can you take to ensure that God's message takes root in your life?



14 What troubles or worries have threatened your receptiveness to God recently?

15 What biblical truth or promise do you need to remember during times of uncertainty?

16 As you think of people who are close to you, visualize their lives as different kinds of soil. For whom will you pray? (Ask God to do whatever is necessary to plow up their field into good soil.)

A What was John the Baptist's relationship to Jesus (11:1–19)? What prompted him to send his disciples to ask Jesus a question? What is your relationship to Jesus? What would you like to ask him?

MORE
for studying
other themes
in this section

B How did John prepare the way for others to hear about Jesus (11:7–15)? How can you prepare the way for your friends, coworkers, and neighbors to hear about Jesus?

C How did insensitivity to God's message hurt the people of Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum (11:20–24)? How can you be sure to maintain your sensitivity to God's Word?

D In what way are those who are childlike wiser than some who are highly educated (11:25, 26)? How can you become wise like a child?

E From where does Jesus' authority come (11:27)? How does his authority affect your life?

F From what burden or burdens does Jesus free us (11:28–30)? What makes Jesus' burden light by comparison? What burden do you carry that Jesus could lighten for you?

G What arguments did Jesus use to refute the accusation that his disciples were violating the Sabbath (12:1–8)? How can we make sure we don't put rules ahead of people?

H With whom did Jesus interact as he traveled (12:1–50)? How did Jesus respond to each one? Whom have you met over the last six months? How can you present Christ in a unique way to each one?

I How did Jesus anger the Pharisees (12:9–14)? What did they want to do to him? Why might people get angry at someone doing good? What does this reaction help you keep in mind?

J What can people tell about us by the language we use (12:33–37)? What does your choice of words say about you and the changes you need to make in your life?

K Who is Jesus' real family (12:46–50)? Whom does this include among the people you know? In what way does Christ draw you together?

L How did the hardness of people's hearts affect the way Jesus taught (13:13–15)? What can we do to avoid becoming hardened to God's Word?

M What hindered the people of Jesus' hometown from accepting his identity (13:53–58)? What keeps people from accepting Christ today? What can we do to remove these barriers?