



STATE ★ OF THE ★ CHURCH ADDRESS

Matthew 13:3-23

January 12, 2014 | 10:50am

Introduction: Today we are going to look at the future of our church in 2014 through the lens of one of Jesus' parables.

- I. The Setting For The Story

- II. The Story (Matthew 13:3-9)
 - A. Hard Soil (Matthew 13:4)

 - B. Thin Soil (Matthew 13:5)

 - C. Weed-Infested Soil (Matthew 13:7)

 - D. Good Soil (Matthew 13:8)

(over)

III. The Symbolism Of The Story (Matthew 13:18-23)

- A. The **Impenetrable** Heart (Matthew 13:19)
- B. The **Shallow** Heart (Matthew 13:20-21)
- C. The **Infested** Heart (Matthew 13:22)
- D. The **Soft** Heart (Matthew 13:23)

IV. Principles From The Parables

- A. Our Assignment is to **Spread** the Seed, Not **Manufacture** the Seed.
 - B. The More Seed We **Spread**, the More Fruit We **Produce**.
 - C. We Are Responsible for **Cultivating** the Seed in Our Own **Garden**. (John 15:5; Matthew 13:23)
 - 1. Make sure your heart is **soft**.
 - 2. Make sure your heart is **free** from spiritual weeds.
 - 3. Make sure your heart is **nourished**.
- 5/5/5 Challenge**
- 4. Make sure your heart is **warmed**. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Conclusion