

Listening to God

I wondered why Jesus taught people mainly with parables. When Jesus disciples asked why, he said those who REALLY LISTEN will gain understanding. But for others, Jesus quoted Isaiah:

"The hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes -- so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them."

-- Matthew 13 NLT

In the famous parable of a farmer sowing seed, some fell on:

* **HARD GROUND.** For those who don't listen, Satan snaps away the Word like birds eating scattered seed.

* **ROCKY GROUND.** Those who begin to listen, but have "no root", fall away when difficulties or persecution come.

* **AMONG THORNS.** Spiritual growth is choked by **WORRIES** and the **DECEITFULNESS** of **WEALTH**.

* **GOOD GROUND.** Those who really listen and allow God's message to affect them produce **MUCH FRUIT**.

This parable isn't only about those who hear God's word the first time. My wife Win and I decided it also applies to us who have been believers a long time: Like the first three soils, we can become **UNFRUITFUL** when we don't **LISTEN** to God.



Coffee/tea thought: Each time we read the word of God, let's ask, "Lord, what do you want to say to me today?" And let our hearts be open to what he says.

John

傾聽神的話

我想知道為什麼耶穌在教導衆人時主要用的是比喻。當耶穌的門徒問他為什麼時，他說那些真正用心聽的人會明白的。但對於其他人，耶穌引用了以賽亞書的預言：

“因為這百姓油蒙了心，耳朵發沉，眼睛閉著；恐怕眼睛看見，耳朵聽見，心裡明白，回轉過來，我就醫治他們。”

--馬太福音 13 章

著名的農夫撒種比喻中，撒的時候，有些落在：

*路旁硬土上的。凡聽見天國道理不明白的，那惡者就來，把所撒在他心裡的奪了去。

*土淺石頭地上的。就是人聽了道，當下歡喜領受，只因心裡沒有根，不過是暫時的，及至為道遭了患難，或是受了逼迫，立刻就跌倒了。

*荊棘裏的。就是人聽了道，後來有世上的思慮、錢財的迷惑把道擠住了，不能結實。

*好土裏的。就是人聽道明白了，後來結實累累。

這個比喻不只是關於那些初次聽到天國道理的人。我的妻子雯和我決定，這對信主很久的我們也同樣適用：像撒落在前三種土地上，如果我們不傾聽神的話，我們就不能結果實。



隨想：每次讀經時，讓我們問：“主啊，您今天想對我說什麼？”讓我們敞開心，傾聽祂所說的。

史建恩