

Receiving the Word of God, part two



Sermon Series: The Word of God

Sermon Title: Receiving the Word of God, part two

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Second Soil: Shallow Heart Verse 16

Stony Ground – Thin Layer of Top Soil (Show Rock)

No Root – Word of God does not penetrate to their will where their commitment is

Verse 17: They have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.

Two types of responses that can be illustrated by a shallow heart

#1: An Emotional Response to Gods Word

- Sermon that moves you
- Great Music – Emotional

But you leave unchanged. You've been touched emotionally but it doesn't change your life.

#2: Intellectual Response

- You hear the Word of God. Your mind is so full intellectually & knowledge but your life has not changed

It's like going on a diet –

- You can be moved emotionally to go on a diet – “I am so Overweight”
- You can have an intellectual response; the doctor/I know my BMI is too high.

But unless you change you never lose weight.

Someone with a shallow Heart hears a message about

Receiving the Word of God, part two

- Forgiveness but they never forgive
- Living a Godly life but they never live a Godly life
- Witnessing but they never witness
- Tithing but they never tithe
- Prayer but they never pray
- Serving the Lord but they never serve the Lord

1" deep but a mile wide-it's penetrated us emotionally and intellectually but not changed our life

Third Soil: Crowded Heart

Verse 18

What are thorns? They are inferior substitutes to the real crop God wants to produce in your life. Anything that is in your life that crowds God out is an inferior substitute.

It crowds God and His Word and His plan for your life. It is a weed, a thorn; it chokes the very life of God out of us.

How does a thorn grow?

Neglect

- Don't mow your lawn for a month and see what happens.
- This is how some of us are spiritually; we've allowed the weeds of this world to crowd out God.

What do thorns/weeds do?

1. Zap nutrients from crop
2. Crowd out the best of the crop
3. Take over the crop

Like Kudzu (it grows about 1 foot a day)

It doesn't have to be bad things that we allow to crowd God out either. Good things can be just as damaging. Anything that crowds out God is a bad thing.

What are the most aggressive weeds/thorns?

Jesus outlines them in verse 19

1. Worries of the world. Does anyone have worries?
2. Deceitfulness of riches? Did anyone make Forbes 400 richest people in America List?
3. Desire of other things? The pursuit of pleasures

How do you keep the weeds out of your life?

It's a daily ongoing process. You have to look for the weeds every day. You have to say "God I don't want these weeds in my life; I want the best for my life; I want to accomplish your goals; I want to get rid of the weeds so I can have a changed life.

Fourth Soil: Receptive Heart

What Kind of Soil/heart does God want from us?

Verse 20 – Here's the good ground here's the kind of heart God wants on a daily basis, here's the Good soil

1. A heart that receives the Word of God
2. A heart that responds to the Word of God
3. A heart that reproduces the Word of God

When the Word of God takes root in your heart you produce **3 types of fruit:**

1. Fruit of a Soul Winner
2. Fruit of the Spirit – which is inner character change
3. Fruit of Service to Him

If these three things are absent from your life it's a pretty good bet that you've been offering God

- An impenetrable heart
- A Shallow Heart
- Or a Crowded Heart

What is the Answer – its total submission of our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

Lord I don't want to offer you an Impenetrable heart, shallow heart, crowded heart – Lord break-up the soil of my heart so it is ready to receive the seed of your word. That it may take root and produce the change I need in my life.