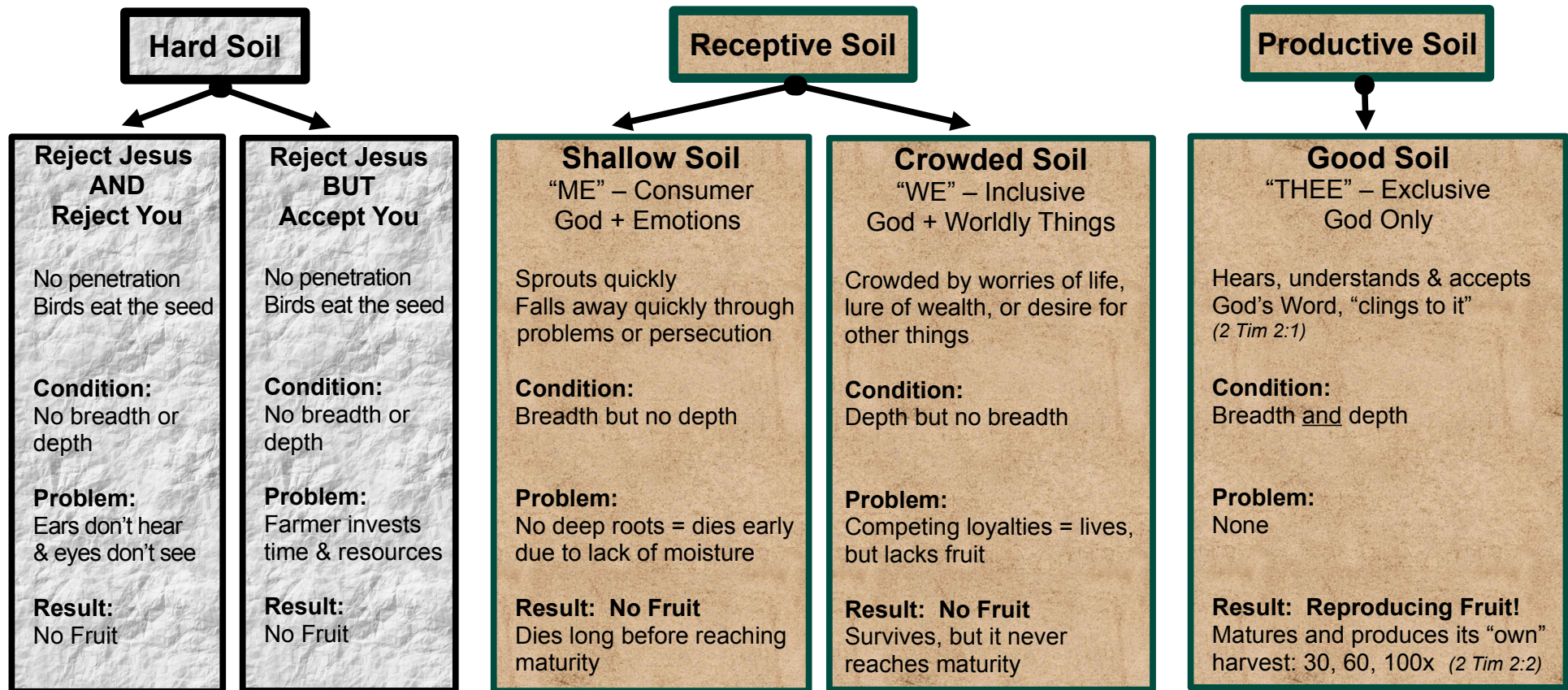


Kinds of People You Will Find in the Harvest

Luke 8:4-8, 11-15 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 Mark 4:1-9, 14-20



KEY

Farmer = The Apostle
Seed = Word of God
Soil = Human Heart
Harvest = Ripened Fruit
Fruit = New Disciple
Who Makes
New Disciples

DISCUSSION

Jesus tells this parable while He is going to towns and villages with His disciples (Luke 8:1). In the next chapter, Jesus sends the 12 out to do the same thing (Luke 9:1-2).

What did Jesus intend for His disciples to learn and understand?

What does this parable tell us about the nature of people?

What has to change before a person can be productive?

Who "patiently produces a huge harvest"? Read Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20, and Luke 8:15 carefully!

In His ministry, how much time did Jesus devote to each type of person (soil) mentioned here?

What are some ways you can discern what type of soil you are working with?

Using is this as a filter, in whom are you going to invest most of your time and effort?

Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed – Luke 8:4-8, 11-15; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-9, 14-20 (NLT)

1 Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. 2 A large crowd (from many towns) soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. 3 He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

The Parable of the Farmer Told	The Parable Explained
5 <i>“(Listen!) A farmer went out to plant his seed.</i>	13 <i>Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?” 11 “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. (14 The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others.)</i>
5 <i>As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it.</i>	12 <i>The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message (about the Kingdom and don’t understand it), only to have the devil (Satan) come (at once) and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.</i>
6 <i>Other seed fell among rocks (shallow soil with underlying rock). It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. (The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died.)</i>	13 <i>The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and (immediately) receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots (they don’t last long), they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation (They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word).</i>
7 <i>Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants (so they produced no grain).</i>	14 <i>The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message (hear God’s word), but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares (worries of this life) and riches (lure of wealth) and pleasures of this life (the desire for other things). And so they never grow into maturity (so no fruit is produced).</i>
8 <i>Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times (thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times) as much as had been planted!”</i>	15 <i>And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear (and understand) (and accept) God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest. (of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!)”</i>
When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”	

