

I. The Way Side Heart

1. The way side is the hard, compacted, roadway that is by the field ([Mt. 13:4](#); [Mk. 4:4](#); [Lk. 8:5](#)).
2. The way side heart hears but does not understand thus does not believe and is not saved ([Mt. 13:19](#); [Mk. 4:15](#); [Lk. 8:12](#)).
 - a. It is not enough to hear we must also practice ([Rm. 2:13](#)).
 - b. The devil (Satan) is active in removing the seed (the Word of God) from the heart ([1 Pt. 5:8](#)).
3. There are several reasons why a way side heart may exist.
 - a. Pride ([Ps. 10:4](#), [14:1](#)).
 - b. Exposure to and continued acceptance of evil ([Eph. 4:17-19](#); cf. [Rm. 1](#)).
4. Examples.
 - a. Some of those on the Day of Pentecost ([Ac. 2:13](#)).
 - b. Some of those at Athens ([Ac. 17:32](#)).
 - c. Gallio ([Ac. 18:12-17](#)).

II. The Rocky Heart

1. The rocky soil has just a little soil covering the top of a mass of rock ([Mt. 13:5-6](#); [Mk. 4:5-6](#); [Lk. 8:6](#)).
2. The rocky heart hears and obeys the Word initially but tribulation and persecution causes this heart to be offended ([Mt. 13:20-21](#)).
 - a. There is swift obedience with joy and gladness at first ([Mt. 13:20](#); [Mk. 4:16](#); [Lk. 8:13](#)).
 - b. The affliction and persecution is due to the Word ([Mk. 4:17](#)).
 - c. A Christian was produced in this heart but no fruit was brought forth.
 - d. This highlights the need to be rooted and built up in Christ ([Col. 2:6-8](#)).
3. Examples.
 - a. Peter in his denial of Christ three times ([Mk. 14:66-72](#)).
 - b. Mark in leaving Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey ([Ac. 12:25](#), [13:13](#), [15:37-39](#)).

III. The Thorny Heart

1. The thorny soil is good soil but it contains thorny plants also ([Mt. 13:7](#); [Mk. 4:7](#); [Lk. 8:7](#)).
2. The thorny heart hears and obeys the Word but then is destroyed by the care of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things ([Mt. 13:22](#); [Mk. 4:18-19](#); [Lk. 8:14](#)).
 - a. This is a divided heart ([Mt. 6:24](#)).
 - b. God has commanded us not to worry but to first focus on the spiritual ([Mt. 6:25-34](#)).
 - c. Our lives do not consist in material things ([Lk. 12:15](#)).
 - d. A Christian was produced in this heart but no fruit was brought to perfection.

3. Examples.
 - a. The rich young ruler ([Mt. 19:16-22](#)).
 - b. Judas Iscariot ([Mt. 26:14-16](#), [27:3-5](#); [Jn. 17:12](#); [Ac. 1:16-20](#), [25](#)).
 - c. Demas ([2 Tim. 4:10](#)).
 - d. The church at Laodicea ([Rev. 3:14-22](#)).

IV. The Honest and Good Heart

1. The good soil is cultivated, prepared, and receptive to the seed ([Mt. 13:8](#); [Mk. 4:8](#); [Lk. 8:8](#)).
2. The honest and good heart hears, understands, obeys the Word, and brings forth fruit ([Mt. 13:23](#); [Mk. 4:20](#); [Lk. 8:15](#)).
 - a. Word order is important for a heart cannot be good if it is not first honest ([Lk. 8:15](#)).
 - b. Luke's record shows the need to bring forth fruit with patience ([Lk. 8:15](#)).
 - c. The yield of the fruit may be different for each Christian but the important thing is that we are each bearing fruit for Christ ([Jn. 15:1-8](#); [Rm. 7:4](#)).
3. Examples.
 - a. Cornelius and his household ([Ac. 10](#)).
 - b. The Bereans ([Ac. 17:10-12](#)).

V. The Sower

1. The seed has been given to us by God and thus no one has the right to alter it ([Lk. 8:11](#); [Dt. 4:2](#); [Pr. 30:5-6](#); [Rev. 22:18-19](#)).
 - a. When other seeds are sown then strange plants come up.
 - b. Sometimes good seed is sown but the plant goes bad ([Jer. 2:21](#)).
2. It takes sowing and watering for increase to occur ([1 Cor. 3:5-9](#)).
 - a. If we have no sower and we have no one watering, how can God give the increase?
 - b. Let us do our part and let God do His part!
3. The sower has no authority to choose which soil the seed falls on.
 - a. The same seed hit four different kinds of hearts.
 - b. The gospel is for all ([Mt. 28:19-20](#); [Mk. 16:15](#)).
4. The sower must recognize that the best results come from proper cultivation of the soil.
 - a. Christian influence is key here ([Mt. 5:13-16](#); [1 Pt. 3:15-16](#)).
 - b. Rocks (persecutions) can be endured through encouragement ([Ac. 14:22](#); [1 Pt. 1:1-9](#); [2 Cor. 4:16-18](#); [Heb. 3:12-13](#), [10:24-25](#)).
 - c. Thorns (anxiety, materialism, worldly lust) can be removed ([Php. 4:6](#); [Col. 3:1-4](#); [Mt. 6:19-21](#)).
 - d. Even those that are bearing fruit can be pruned to bear more fruit ([Jn. 15:2](#))!