

Review

- Last week we looked at Matthew 18:1-8, 18-23, where Jesus compares the condition of a person's heart to the condition of soil in a field.
- Jesus lists four types of soil in Matthew 13:1-8 showing four different heart conditions.
 1. Wayside heart condition. (Hard Ground)
 2. Stony Places heart condition (Rocky Ground)
 3. Among Thorns heart condition (Thorny Ground)
 4. Good Ground heart condition (Good Ground)
- Once we know our heart condition, we will know where we need to improve our soil (heart).
- Last week we focused on the Wayside Heart

This Week's Focus: **Stony Places Heart Condition**

Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21(*Expanded Bible*)

5 Some seed fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much dirt. That seed grew [*sprang up*] very fast because the ground was not deep. 6 But when the sun rose, the plants dried up [*were scorched and withered*], because they did not have deep roots.

20 And what is the seed that fell [*sown*] on rocky ground? That seed is like the person who hears the teaching [*word; message*] and quickly accepts [*receives*] it with joy. 21 But he does not let the teaching go deep into his life, so [*since he has no root in himself*] he keeps it only a short time [*he does not endure; it is short lived*]. When trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching he accepted [*word, message*], he quickly [*immediately*] gives up [*falls away; stumbles*].

Jesus' description of the stony places heart:

1. Hears, and receives the word but Has No Roots.
2. The word stays for a while and falls away when trouble comes because of that word.

“The Stony Places Heart Condition” is

1. A heart that hears and receives the word of God but never forms strong convictions about it.
2. A heart where God's word is not deeply rooted.

Growth Group Discussion

For the week of February 18, 2024

WHAT'S YOUR HIGHLIGHT?

Looking back at your notes *from the discipleship moments on the "stony place heart" condition*, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

1. What is a "stony place" heart condition?
2. How can your heart become a "stony place" heart?
3. As you discuss don't forget the gateways into the heart (hear, see, experience) and how things that enter our hearts form roots (lesson on Guard your heart). Looking back on your life experiences, can you think of a time when your heart was like the stony place's heart – very enthusiastic about your faith, but you weren't able to nourish it to the point where you formed convictions?
4. Considering the study, how can we guard against having a "stony place heart" condition? (Matthew 13:21)

PRAYER TIME

Examining our hearts and seeing ourselves requires prayer *Psalm 139:23-24*. We need the Holy Spirit to give us the eyes to see and reveal to us what He wants to change. So let us pray.