

You Need a Heart Check

Series

The Storyteller

Speaker

Pastor Danny Gray



July 20,
2025

Key Scriptures

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Ezekiel 36:26

Message Summary

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells *The Parable of the Sower* to a multitude of people. In the story, a farmer scatters seed on different types of soil. The seed represents the Word of God, and the types of soil represent the different conditions of the human heart.

Some hearts are hard - made this way by sin, by suffering, by apathy. When the Word of God falls on this hardened soil, it is quickly and easily snatched away by the enemy.

Some hearts are shallow - receiving the Word with enthusiasm, but then falling away from God when life becomes difficult. These hearts let their emotions dictate their faith, instead of the other way around.

Some hearts are distracted and greedy - their soil is too crowded with the cares of the world, leaving no room for the Word to grow.

And some hearts are healthy - these are the hearts that receive the Word of God, and allow it to take root in their lives. These hearts bear healthy, lasting fruit. At the end of the parable, Jesus invites us to examine the condition of our hearts, and run to the Father who is able to restore them to health.

Quotes

If your physical heart fails, you suffer in this life; but if your spiritual heart fails, you suffer for eternity.

— Pastor Danny Gray

When the Word of God truly takes root in you, it will produce miraculous fruit.

— Pastor Danny Gray

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your Word. It is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path. I repent of the times I've allowed my heart to become hard, shallow and greedy. I choose to make room for You in my heart today, and I ask you to soften my heart even as I pray right now. Thank You for Your mercy and grace today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflection

What Do You Think?

Reflect on these questions independently or discuss them with your Small Group.

Questions

1. Which part of today's message stood out the most to you, and why?

2. Which type of soil do you most relate to right now, and why?

3. What are some practical ways you could soften a hardened heart? Which of these strategies would you commit to trying this week?

4. What are some "thorns" in your life that might be crowding out God's Word? What can you do to change this?

5. How does this parable encourage you to keep sharing the message of Jesus with others, even when you're not sure what kind of "soil" their heart is made of?

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