

Matthew 13:18-23
The unpopular Jesus

**If Jesus was really the
Messiah, why was he not
more popular?**

**Could the Christian belief
about Jesus be false?**

Matthew 13

“3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.””

“18 Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. 20 And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Matthew 13:18-23 The Parable of the soils



*The seed fell
in four places:*

1. **Beside the road**
2. **Rocky places**
3. **Among thorns**
4. **Good soil**

*The problem
was not the
seed or the
sower but
the soil.*

Three lessons

1. **Jesus is not surprised by negative responses.**
Develop realistic expectations.
2. **Jesus does not blame the sower or the seed.**
Don't take rejection of the message personally.
3. **Jesus is not impressed with all positive responses.**
Be slow to audit the results.

*Two paths to spiritual
neurosis*

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| 1. | 2. |
| “I am responsible
for your response” | “You are responsible
for my response” |
| <i>Guilt</i> | <i>Bitterness</i> |