

ROOTED: SOIL

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Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a

hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears* listen!'

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Why do you think Jesus told this parable?
3. Hearing what someone says (their words) and listening to a person are two different things. What do you think it means to truly *listen*? What are some ways we can practice active or deep listening?
4. Plants often need "good soil" for seeds to take root and grow. What are some ways we can help create "good soil" in ourselves and in our communities so we can truly listen to one another and God?
5. Not everything is in our control, even good soil produces different yields. Reflect on the meaning of this.

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