

CrossWalk **notes**

The Kingdom

Reactions to the Kingdom

February 26, 2023 / Dan Solofra

How do I respond to news of God's Kingdom?

¹² How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath. . . ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus. . . ³ Then he told them many things in parables . . . ¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" . . . ¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. **Matthew 12:12 – 13:15 NIV** (selected verses)

Jesus used parables to _____ himself from his enemies while sharing the _____ with his followers.

¹⁸ "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." **Matthew 13:18-23, NIV**

What are negative reactions to God's kingdom?

- The path, hard soil = a _____-filled heart.
- Rocky ground = a heart averse to _____.
- Thorny soil = a _____ and _____ heart.
- *unproductive = a heart unwilling to _____.

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God's Word is not a hobby or habit but a holy seed that can produce a changed life. Mike Novotny "What's Big, Starts Small."

God's Word has exponential potential. I will:

- _____ myself before God.
- _____ > _____.
- _____ with God.
- _____ my life.
- _____!

MEMORY VERSE

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My next step: God's Word has been planted in my heart. I will nurture that seed and keep on learning and growing and ! – never give up, keep on persevering.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your communication card.