

Script – The Parable of the Soils

[Opening scene, Jesus and the disciples are stage left. There are “soil” actors congregate across the center stage. They will later form into four groups of people that illustrate the different soils.]

Jesus: [a loud voice] Listen!

Farmer: [walks slowly across the stage, reaching into the bag and sowing the seed, directing it towards the “soil” actors; continues across stage and exits. As the farmer sows, the “soil” actors pick up one of colorful “seeds”.]

Jesus: A farmer went out to sow his seed.

Birds: [flap their arms as they come on stage]

Jesus: As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Birds: [the birds take the seeds away from first group, the “Path” soil actors. When the birds take the seeds, the “Path” actor turns with their back to the audience and remains still. The birds continue to flap their wings and leave the stage.]

Jesus: Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil.

Rocks: [These step forward with excitement then begin to act like they are in the desert with the sun beating down on them; they are very hot and thirsty.]

Jesus: It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Rocks: [continuing to act hot and dry, they fall down. They remain on stage, sitting with their backs to the audience.]

Jesus: Other seed fell among thorns

Worried: [These step forward with excitement. From offstage come the “Thorns” that grab, pull and choke at the “Worried.”]

Jesus: Which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.

Worried: [Both groups, the Worried and the Thorns sink down to their knees and turn with their backs to the audience.]

Jesus: Still other seed fell on good soil.

Good Soil: [These step forward with excitement and begin to be happy, hugging each other, laughing together.]

Jesus: It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times. [pause] He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Good Soil: [They now go and help the others on stage stand back up. These also join into the fellowship and fun.]

[after 10-20 seconds of seeing the Good Soil, everyone on stage freezes. The focus of the action is now back to Jesus and the disciples.]

Disciple 1: [to Jesus] Lord, I don't understand.

Disciple 2: Please tell us what this parable means.

Jesus: The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!

[Everyone on stage unfreezes and returns to their opening positions, ready to repeat the play with new narrative.]

Jesus: Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?

Farmer: [walks slowly across the stage, reaching into the bag and sowing the seed, directing it towards the "soil" actors; continues across stage and exits. As the farmer sows, the "soil" actors pick up one of colorful "seeds".]

Jesus: The farmer sows the word.

Birds: [flap their arms as they come on stage]

Jesus: Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Birds: [the birds take the seeds away from first group, the "Path" soil actors. When the birds take the seeds, the "Path" actor turns with their back to the audience and remains still. The birds continue to flap their wings and leave the stage.]

Jesus: Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.

Rocks: [These step forward with excitement then begin to act like they are in the desert with the sun beating down on them; they are very hot and thirsty.]

Jesus: 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.

Rocks: [continuing to act hot and dry, they fall down. They remain on stage, sitting with their backs to the audience.]

Jesus: Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;

Worried: [These step forward with excitement. From offstage come the “Thorns” that grab, pull and choke at the “Worried.”]

Jesus: ...but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.

Worried: [Both groups, the Worried and the Thorns sink down to their knees and turn with their backs to the audience.]

Jesus: Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it.

Good Soil: [These step forward with excitement and begin to be happy, hugging each other, laughing together.]

Jesus: And produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

The End