

TSIYON NEWS

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MESSIAH'S MIGHTY MEN
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Episode 15
Maintaining Good Soil

Live Discussion – Hosted by Michael



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Eliyahu shares his latest message.**

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Live Panel Discussion

From Eliyahu

I always enjoy writing to you, knowing that we are united by our love for Yeshua and our desire to see His kingdom advance. Yet, I am sometimes saddened that some who once walked with us in His narrow Way have slowed down or have even wandered away from the path. I have fond memories of some of those folks who began with a surge of excitement upon learning the truth, only to be drawn off by the world farther down the line. No doubt, you have been concerned for some whom you have known that have had this happen. Do you wonder why? I

have a few thoughts to share on that here.

The same thing sometimes happens when launching a new chapter for our lives, our families, or our ministries only to watch that excitement fade away. I suspect most of us can think of at least one calling, one habit, one commitment that began with such promise, and yet withered before it bore fruit. This is far too common.

Why does this happen? Why do so many start well but fail to finish strong? Yeshua's Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13 deals with exactly that, not just as a story about seed and soil, but as a mirror for our own hearts. We'll explore four reasons kingdom seeds of good intention sometimes fail to produce fruit, and we will uncover one important root cause we can do something about.

Messiah laid out this complex problem in such a simple fashion, characteristic of His brilliant grasp of all truth. Yet, He didn't say everything. He left some things for us to discover. It turns out that becoming good soil involves focus. We will call this identity vs. outcome focus. Grasping this can help us chart a path toward becoming "good soil" in whom lasting fruitfulness can flourish. Let's listen to Yeshua's words:

"He spoke to them many things in parables, saying, Behold, a farmer went out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them. Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn't have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of earth. When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
(Matthew 13:3-9)

Now, here is how Yeshua explained this:

"Hear, then, the parable of the farmer. When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom, and doesn't understand it, the evil one comes, and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown by the roadside. What was sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word, and immediately with joy receives it; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. What was sown among the thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word,

and he becomes unfruitful. What was sown on the good ground, this is he who hears the word, and understands it, who most certainly bears fruit, and brings forth, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty."

So, Yeshua, turning to His disciples, explains: the seed is the Word of the Kingdom; the soils are the conditions of our hearts. Some hearts are hard and thus easy targets for the devil. Some hearts are shallow, with very little depth of character or determination. These easily succumb to any sort of opposition. The third type of soil focuses on worry over problems of this life, and pursuit of riches and other worldly pursuits that choke out the Word.

Here we have three out of four types of soil - and all three ultimately fail. Let that sink in for a minute. Three out of four who started out eventually fail. That tracks with the sad reality. Fortunately, the fourth type of heart/soil "hears the word, and understands it" so will go on to bring forth much fruit for the Kingdom! Be that person!

This is a parable, a story that helps us understand something. It is about the seed, the Word of the Kingdom, but the principles it embodies can be applied to any worthwhile pursuit within the Father's will - new habits, fresh ministries, revived relationships. It teaches us that the condition of our heart, the soil within us, determines whether what we plant will endure or fail. Of course this applies to your walk with Yeshua, but the principles here can be applied to your marriage or other relationships, your ministry, or any other commitment of faith.

1. The Path - Distraction and Doubt

Imagine the seed that fell on the hard-packed road. Before it could germinate, birds swooped down. In our lives, that bird might be the cacophony of social media, the allure of trivial pastimes, or the persistent voice of doubt: "I'm not cut out for this." Even more likely, the birds here may be family and friends who don't want to see us change. Odds may be, we never even give the new shoot a chance to grow.

2. The Rocky Ground - Shallow, Outcome-Driven Effort

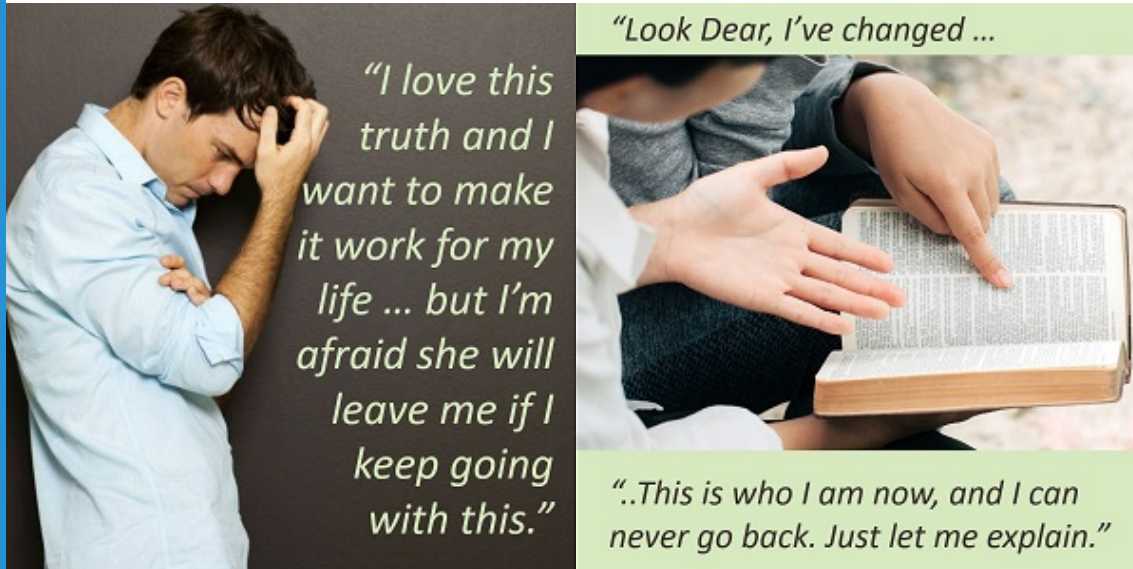
On rocky soil the seed springs up fast - like our initial enthusiasm. We sign up for the Bible course, stay up all night enjoying all the truth we didn't know, or start telling others about it. But there's no depth of commitment. The first trial - an unexpected conflict, a missed commitment, a taxing relationship - scorches our resolve. Lacking deep roots, we wither.

3. Among the Thorns - Choked by Competing Priorities

Some seed falls among thorns, and these choke the plant. For us, thorns are the cares of this world: financial pressure, career ambition, social status, or even busyness in “good” things that steal time from His things. We find ourselves saying 'yes' to everything but the one commitment that would bear eternal fruit.

4. Good Soil - Deep Roots of Identity

Finally, good soil welcomes the seed, nourishes it, and produces a harvest. This is the heart that has been prepared - where true identity aligns with purpose. In such soil, trials deepen roots rather than destroy them, and the harvest multiplies.



Why do so many of us find ourselves on the hard path or shallow ground, despite our best intentions? It can boil down to where we fix our focus: outcome or identity.

Outcome-Focused Mindset

“I want a thriving ministry. I want to lose 20 pounds. I want a strong marriage.” Outcomes are powerful motivators - they give us a destination. Yet when the journey becomes difficult, the destination alone is seldom enough to keep us going.

Identity-Focused Mindset

“I am a disciple who abides in Messiah. Lord, that is my true identity in You. Please help me to manifest that in all things, especially in this thing that is a problem for me right now.” When goals spring from a deep sense of who we already are, our actions align more naturally. Our choices become expressions of our identity, not a means to an end. As disciples of Messiah we are in Him, and in Him we have everything we need to succeed.

Yeshua's call is never merely, "Do good deeds." He calls us to a new identity: "Follow Me; become My disciple" (Matthew 16:24). Our transformation begins at the identity layer, not merely at the layer of action or result.

Be careful. The devil, the world, and even your own fallen inner man will scream at you that you are a fraud, not a true disciple. The truth is, if you have trusted in Him you are saved by grace through faith - not by your own righteousness. The more you believe that truth and walk in it the more you will grow in your true identity in Him.

"If then you were raised together with Messiah, seek the things that are above, where Messiah is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Messiah in God. When Messiah, our life, is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory." (Colossians 3:1-4)

How can you move from being rocky soil to good soil in Yeshua? Here are four steps to help root your identity in Yeshua and bear lasting fruit:

1. Decide Who You Are in Messiah

Write a concise identity statement drawn from Scripture. Examples:

- "I am a child of God, forgiven and empowered by the Spirit."
- "I am a disciple of Yeshua who abides in Him daily."
- "I am a temple of the Holy Spirit, honoring God with my body and mind."

This statement isn't a goal; it's your starting point. Claim it as truth, not aspiration.

2. Gather Tiny Proofs

Cognitive science and Scripture agree: evidence reinforces belief.

Start with micro-commitments that are impossible to fail. For example:

- Start each day by reading one verse and praying, "Lord, show me how this applies to me."
- After your morning coffee, give one genuine compliment to your spouse or coworker.
- When stress arises, pause 30 seconds to breathe and offer a silent "Thank You, Yeshua."

Each time you act, you are saying: "I am the person I said I am."

3. Stack Your Wins

Build on those tiny proofs. Once you're consistent with one habit, add another on top:

- From one verse to a paragraph.
- From a one-minute prayer to a five-minute contemplation on God's goodness.
- From one act of kindness to coordinating a small group to serve together.

This "habit stacking" deepens your roots as every success bolsters your identity.

4. Reflect and Affirm Daily

Without reflection, victories slip by unnoticed. End each day by journaling or speaking aloud two questions:

- "How did I live as a child of God today?"
- "What tiny proof confirms my identity in Messiah?"
- Speaking in first person, present tense - for example, "I am a faithful disciple" or "I honored God with my choices" -cements these truths in your soul.

In sharing this I am well aware that some will see it as mechanistic. Let me tell you, if your heart is in it then it is far more than that - it is you reaching out to be the person you really are in His Spirit. When you reach out toward Him He will reach back. He will send the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to empower your efforts and your true identity will emerge more and more.

Let me share a simple story: Sarah wanted to be a woman of prayer but struggled to maintain her morning time with God. She chose the identity statement, "I am a woman who breathes in prayer." Her first tiny proof: a single "Thank You, Father" the moment she woke up. Two weeks later, she added one verse. A month in, her heart was so stirred that she journaled daily, deepening her roots in unexpected ways. She not only became powerful in prayer - she rose into higher realms of the Spirit than she had ever experienced before.

Brothers and sisters, our community in Messiah has no lack of vision or purpose. Yet the risk is always real that without deep roots, our enthusiasm runs out when trials come - whether it's a disappointing result, a personal hardship, or competing priorities. Let's decide today: we will be a people of identity, not just outcomes. We will declare, "We are disciples of Yeshua who bear lasting fruit." Then we will prove it through tiny acts of obedience, stack those wins, and daily reflect on our identity in Him.

In the Parable of the Sower, only one in four seeds yielded abundant harvest. Let us resolve to be among that one - in good soil - so that our lives, our relationships, and our covenant nation will produce fruit for the Kingdom "a hundredfold."

Will you join me in claiming your identity in Messiah? Will you commit to one tiny proof this week - a short moment of prayer, a small act of service, a verse read with expectation - and build on it? As we plant our identity deep in Messiah, YHWH will bring in the increase. Come and join us tonight at 8 Central at Tsiyon.Net for more amazing truth from Matthew 13. You will surely be blessed.

In His Name,

Eliyahu

Join our live stream Tonight - 8 PM Central - Tsiyon.Net



Audio:



Video:



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