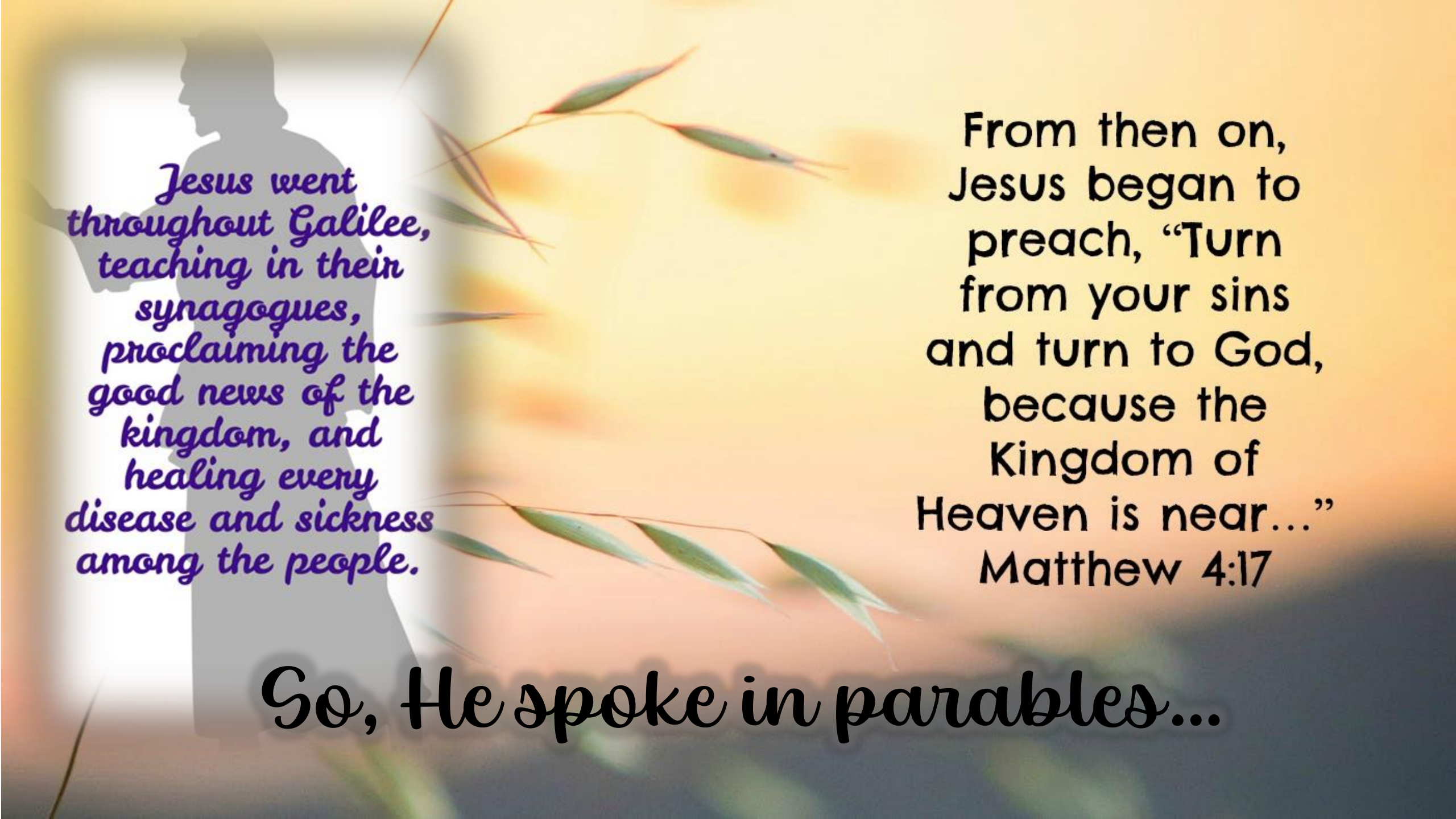


A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark t-shirt. The t-shirt has white text printed on it. The text is arranged in six lines, with the first line being the largest and the last line being the smallest. The text reads: "I HAVE", "SELECTIVE", "HEARING", "I'M SORRY", "YOU WERE NOT", and "SELECTED".

**I HAVE
SELECTIVE
HEARING
I'M SORRY
YOU WERE NOT
SELECTED**



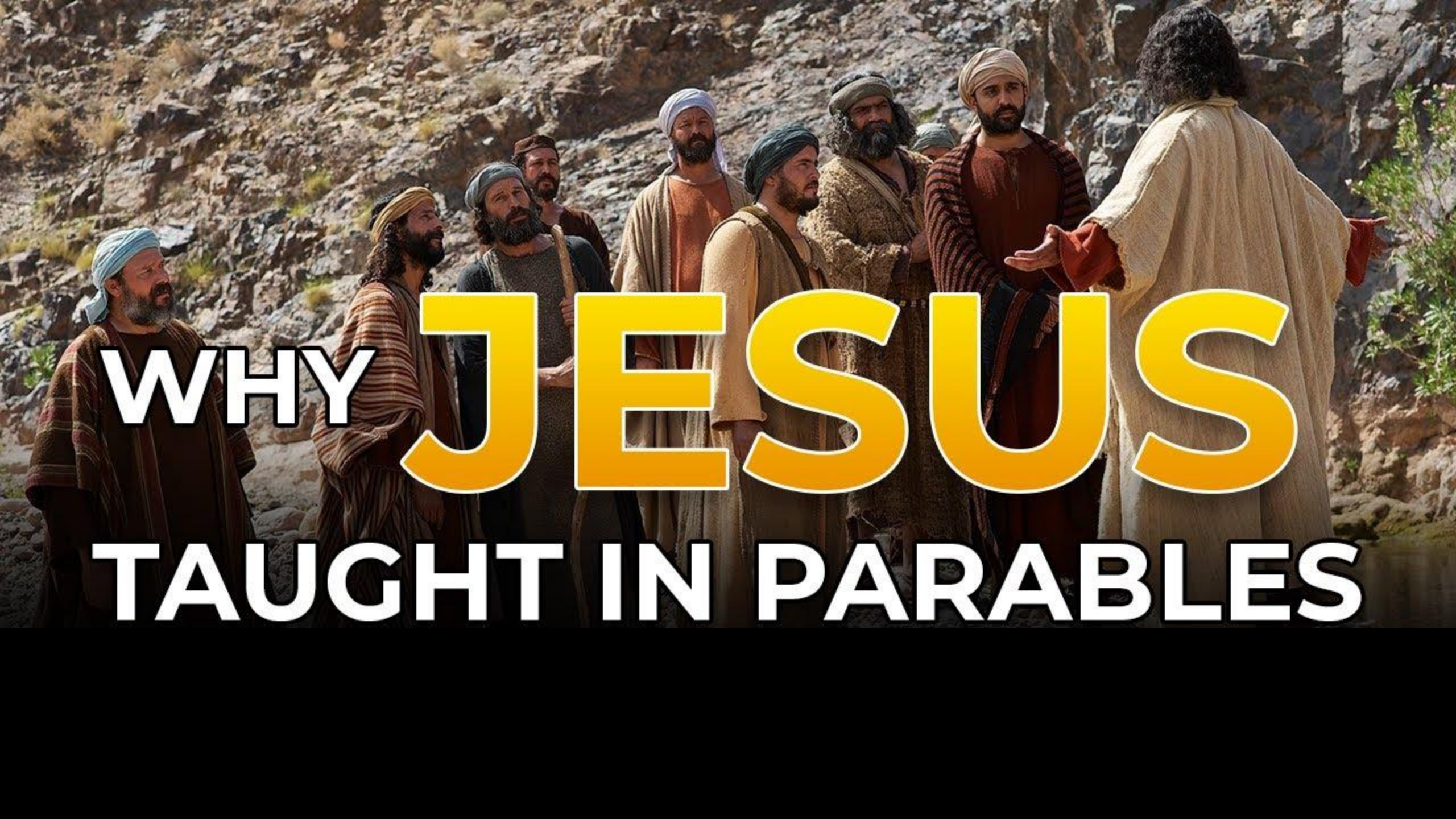
*Jesus went
throughout Galilee,
teaching in their
synagogues,
proclaiming the
good news of the
kingdom, and
healing every
disease and sickness
among the people.*

From then on,
Jesus began to
preach, “Turn
from your sins
and turn to God,
because the
Kingdom of
Heaven is near...”
Matthew 4:17

So, He spoke in parables...

parable of the
Sower





WHY **JESUS**
TAUGHT IN PARABLES

First, What Were The Parables and Why Teach in Parables?

- Familiar fictional stories designed to teach some spiritual lesson
- By telling a true to life story the audience could easily understand valuable spiritual truths
- Stories that caused the audience to think
- **But the parables also concealed knowledge (?)**
 - *Those with hard hearts would not understand valuable truths*
 - *Often “get” the point but not benefit from it*
 - *Like seed on hard ground the Word could not penetrate their hard hearts*

Wayside

Well worn path,
soil beaten
down

Birds devoured



Rocky

Shallow –not
deep enough

Plant died



Weedy

Good start but
couldn't compete

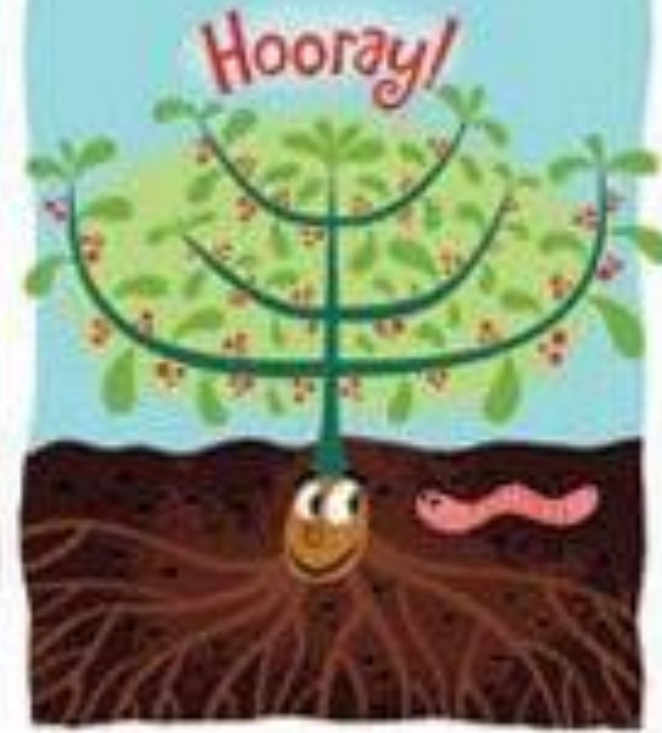
Life choked out



Productive

Brought forth
anticipated crop

Took
preparation



Wayside

Rocky

Weedy

Productive

Central Truth – *How a person receives Word* brought forth anticipated crop

Well worn path,
soil beaten
down

Shallow – not
deep enough

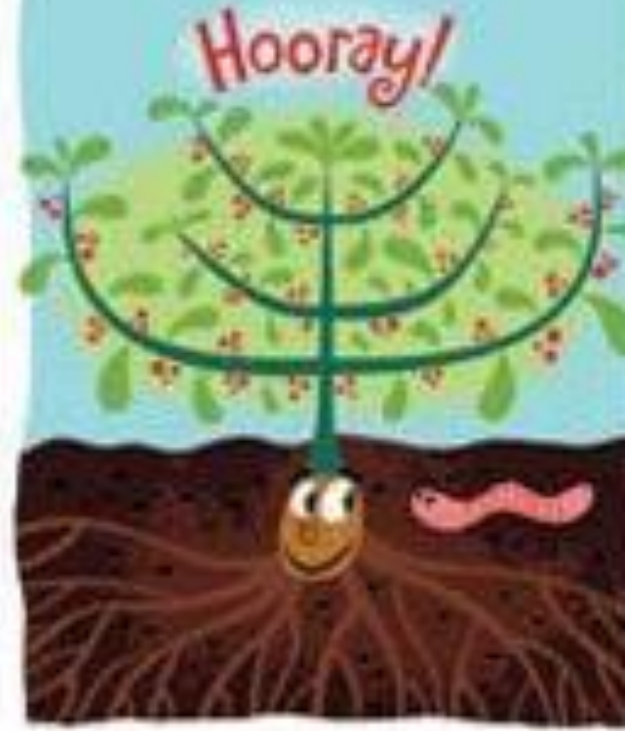
Good start but
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Took
preparation

Birds devoured

Plant died

Life choked out





Symbolize

- Sower
 - *He who sows is Son of man*
- Seed
 - *Word of God*
- Soil
 - *The hearts of men*

Closer Look at Wayside Ground

- Heart hears but does not understand (13:9a)
- Hearts that have been made hard
- Wicked one came & devoured seed
- Blinded by Satan
- Satan contributed but their own choice



Closer Look at Rocky Ground

- Hears & receives with joy
- No depth or root – quickly/easily dies
- Receive Word with joy but when troubles, trials, hard times come they loose their faith
- Emotional reception does not guarantee the depth to survive



Closer Look at Thorny Ground

- **Receives the Word but the cares of the world choke the seed out**
- **Cares of world, chock out the Word**
- **Deceitfulness of riches, chock out the Word**
- **Pleasures of this life, chock out the Word**



Closer Look at Good Ground



- Hears, understands the Word
- Bears fruit
- Noble hearts hear, obey and put Word to work
- Like the Bereans they search Word
- Must understand Word to bear fruit
- Will bear different kinds & amounts of fruit

To benefit from The Word...

- Hear the Word for what it is the Word of God
- Hear with the aim of obeying Word
- Take the Word deep into your heart
- Obey whatever God commands
- Bear fruit



What Is Required of Those Who Sow the Seed...

-
- **Must be persistent**
 - **Must not discriminate**
 - **Prepare the ground, remove the rocks, weed, water**



He Who
Has Ears

*Let Him
Hear*

**Not all who have ears
really listen**



He Who
Has Ears

*Let Him
Hear*

So, faith comes from hearing, and
hearing through the word of Christ
(Rom. 10:17).

