



1. Hardened/Unbelieving Heart Stages

Parable: As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Mark 4:4 NIV

Explanation: Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Luke 8:12 NIV

Explanation: ...the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart... Matthew 13:19 NIV

2. Rocky/Shallow Heart Stages

Parable: Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Mark 4:5-6 NIV

because they had no moisture. Luke 8:6

Explanation: Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Mark 4:16-17 NIV

Explanation: They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away Luke 8:13b NIV

3. Thorny/Unfruitful Heart Stages

Parable: Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Mark 4:7

Explanation: Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Mark 4:18-19 NIV

Explanation: ...as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. Luke 8:14 NIV

4. Good/Fruitful Heart Stages

Parable: Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times." Mark 4:8 NIV

Explanation: Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown." Mark 4:20 NIV

Explanation: But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:15 NIV