



The Stubborn Heart Soil, Mark 4:14-17

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- Roger Miller was a singer songwriter in the 60's and early 70's
 - He wrote many serious songs like, "Me and Bobby McGee"
Robin Hood and Little John, walking through the forest
Laughing back and forth at what the other'n has to say
Reminiscing this and that and having such a good time
 - Oo-de-lally, oo-de-lally, golly, what a day

I hear tell you're doin' well,
Good thing have come to you.
I wish I had your happiness
And you had a
 - Do-wacka-do, wacka do, wacka-do, wacka-do.

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- Roger Miller was a singer songwriter in the 60's and early 70's
 - He wrote many number one songs for other like, "Me and Bobby McGee"

Trailer's for sale or rent
Rooms to let, 50 cents
No phone, no pool, no pets
I ain't got no cigarettes



The Stubborn Heart Soil

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 - He wrote many number one songs for other like, "Me and Bobby McGee"

You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd

You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd

You can't roller skate in a buffalo herd

But you can be happy if you've a mind to

You can't take a shower in a parakeet cage

You can't take a shower in a parakeet cage

You can't take a shower in a parakeet cage

But you can be happy if you've a mind to

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- There are some things that just don't go together
 - And folks, a born-again child of God that is not a Disciple of Jesus Christ do not go together
 - Your sin debt is forgiven – excellent but what about living in this sinful world today
 - There will come a time when you will crave the peace promised by Jesus, joy, power, security, direction, strong presence
 - And these only come into your life through the root called, Discipleship

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
 - **Matthew 11:29-30 NIV**, 29 “Take my yoke upon you and learn from (*of*) me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke (*in comparison*) is easy and my burden is light.”
 - Similar words spoken to Peter, James, and John, “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men”
 - What will I learn?
 - You will learn how to please and bring glory to God the Father
 - You will learn how to complete the work He has given you

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?
 - How?
 - The process every successful gardener uses, the taking out and putting in
 - Removing one by one the rocks from our old sinful nature and world we live in
 - Putting in the rock solid truth of God's Word
 - So that your spiritual root of discipleship can grow deep into the gift of the Holy Spirit bringing into your life the presence, power, truth of God Almighty

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- We began last week looking at the Parable of the Soils and started with the Unresponsive Heart
 - **Mark 4:14-15 NIV**, 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 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.

Scripture

- **Mark 4:16-17 NIV**, 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 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.

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- Jesus desires to sow seeds of truth into your heart soil
 - Some just flat refuse to even consider it or don't hear it
 - Others consider it but want just the salvation part and refuse the lordship or discipleship of Jesus Christ
 - All of God's harvest comes through the root of discipleship bringing its truth to the surface
 - It's good to have salvation freedom, but what about all the other areas of our lives where freedom is offered, needed, refused
 - G.K. Chesterton, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried."

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- The disciples had some rocky patches of soil when walking with Jesus
 - **Matthew 16:22-23 NIV**, 22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”
 - **Luke 22:22-23 NIV**, 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” 23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this. 24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.
 - **Matthew 26:56 NIV**, “Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.”
 - **Matthew 26:75 NIV**, Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.”

We all come to God with rocky, stubborn heart soil that needs constant and consistent attention

- Roger Robertson, “Come Thou Fount”
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
- We all are like the lost sheep wandering away from the shepherd
- We all are like the strong-willed ox refusing to get into the yoke with Jesus
- We all have things that are hard to let go of, accept, forgive
- We all have sin rocks in our heart soil

We all come to God with rocky, stubborn heart soil that needs constant and consistent attention

- The Spiritual Leaders in Jesus' day did not think they had rocky stubborn hearts
 - **Luke 18:11-12 NIV**, 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'
 - **Luke 18:13 NIV**, 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'"
 - **Luke 18:14 NCV**, 14 "I tell you, when this man went home, he was right with God, but the Pharisee was not. All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great."

We all come to God with rocky, stubborn heart soil that needs constant and consistent attention

- When our heart soil is turned over through salvation it becomes receptive to the seeds of truth found in the Word of God
 - But it also reveals what was in the soil and buried deep, and now decisions must be made
 - Will I discard them or keep them close leaving Satan a foothold in our lives
 - **Micah 7:19 ESV**, “You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”
 - Yet we at times will discard our sin rocks close incase we can go visit them at times
 - Keeping us pinned down rather than free

We all come to God with rocky, stubborn heart soil that needs constant and consistent attention

- Stop living in the past
 - Stop allowing your past to be your excuse
 - Stop allowing pain and regret to be your master
 - Stop allowing the fear of tomorrow be your comfort place
 - It's the buried rock or the hidden stump that will get you
- **1st Corinthians 2:9 ESV**, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him

You don't just add Christ to your rocky heart soil

- No matter how much you fertilize rocks, they still will not produce a harvest
 - This is what the Spiritual Leaders of Israel attempted to do
 - Add Jesus to their traditions and rituals
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
- Jesus did not come just to provide a way of salvation
 - He came to be our Lord and Master

You don't just add Christ to your rocky heart soil

- We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ
 - In that discipleship walk we will be prompted to remove the rocks holding us back that are buried in our lives
 - Not necessarily to forget about
 - But to remove the power they have had over you
- Don't be caught off guard when Satan brings a big ol' truck of rocks to dump in your heart soil
 - Catch him at the entrance with the Word of truth and turn him around

You don't just add Christ to your rocky heart soil

- This is what Jesus did when Satan tried this type of temptation in the wilderness
 - **Matthew 4:3** The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”
 - God doesn't really love you
 - **Matthew 4:4 NIV**, Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

You don't just add Christ to your rocky heart soil

- This is what Jesus did when Satan tried this type of temptation in the wilderness
 - **Matthew 4:5-6 NIV**, 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down.
 - Have you proven God really loves you, Do you know without a doubt He is trustworthy
 - **Matthew 4:7 NIV**, Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

You don't just add Christ to your rocky heart soil

- This is what Jesus did when Satan tried this type of temptation in the wilderness
 - **Matthew 4:8-9 NIV**, Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”
 - There is an easier way
 - **Matthew 4:10 NIV**, Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”
 - Every time Jesus counters those rocks thrown at Him with “But the Word says”

Jesus has already prayed for your rocky hearted soil

- **Luke 22:31-32 NIV**, 31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”
 - Simon, I have seen the storm coming into your life
 - Simon, I have seen you on your knees of repentance
 - Simon, I have seen you rising with your faith held fast
 - Simon, I have seen you shunning your failure, returning in humility and washing, serving your brothers through faith
 - Simon, I have seen you become Peter

Jesus has already prayed for your rocky hearted soil

- What does Jesus see when he looks at you?
 - Christian it is time for us to start looking at ourselves through the eyes of Jesus
 - It is time to look at our future through the eyes of God's truth
 - It is time to walk boldly in step with our King
- **Hebrews 7:24-25** NIV, 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- The disciples always had rocks come into their faith when they became comfortable with Jesus
 - They tried to push Jesus to be their definition of the Messiah
 - They tried to push Jesus into their direction the Messiah should take
 - They always over-inflated their place and purpose
 - They allowed old ways of thinking to be placed before the new Jesus was doing
- But there was something about seeing a risen Jesus that totally changed their spiritual DNA

The Stubborn Heart Soil

- How can we keep our heart soil constantly and consistently responsive to Jesus?
 - **Colossians 2:6-8 NIV**, 6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
 - 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
 - **1st Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV**, 13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.



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