

KEY THOUGHTS

- From Matthew 13:23, there are two traits of "good soil"
 - Hear and understand the word
 - Bear fruit
- To understand means to "bring together", as in connecting the dots
- When Jesus was asked why He spoke in parables, as opposed to simply spelling things out, He answered that parables divide people into two groups, those who understand and those who have blinders to understanding
- Matthew 13:14-15 shows us that our lack of ability to understanding is not simply because God arbitrarily picks some people to understand, and others don't have a chance. The progression of this prophecy shows us our own responsibility for understanding.
- Jesus' choice of words is powerful:
 - A thick, or "stupid heart" – much like the hardened soil
Hey soul, you need to be moved.
 - "Heavy ears", or numbed and unhearing – like white noise
Hey soul, you need to listen.
 - Closed eyes – this is an intentional refusal to look
Hey soul, you need to look.

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 13:10-17
- Jeremiah 29:13-14

PRACTICAL & REFLECT

- 1. I need to own the responsibility if I have a heart that does not understand. I have allowed my heart to be thick, my ears to not notice, or my eyes to intentionally look away.
- 2. My soul needs time and attention.
- 3. God passionately wants me to find Him. And He can and will be found.