



IS MY HEART, LIKE THE LAND OF A GARDEN?

Slide 1

Today we are going to talk about **Slide 2** earth, garden, seeds, and our **Slide 3** heart. Why? Well, because in a little story **Slide 4** he told Jesus compares our heart **Slide 5** to earth, the earth of a garden for example. In the earth, and in your heart too, **Slide 6** there will be all kinds of seeds, ideas, thoughts, as well as **Slide 7** a very good seed. This very good seed is **Slide 8** the Gospel that you hear, that you read, what Jesus said, what he did, what he still does today. But what **Slide 9** will become of this good seed in your life? **Slide 10** Will it grow? **Slide 11** Will it dry? **Slide 12** Will it be suffocated by other plants? How do **Slide 13** I get it to bear fruit?

This is what we are going to see in this parable. You can find **Slide 14** in chapter 13 of the Gospel of Matthew. Then you can answer my question: **Slide 15** good soil, what is it for Jesus?

Slide 16 IN MY HEART, IS THERE GOOD EARTH?

Slide 17 Imagine a farmer who has a field he owns. He wants **Slide 18** to have a good harvest, then, he prepares **Slide 19** the earth by turning it over.

Slide 20 One morning, early in the morning:

Slide 21 - Let's go, he says, now is the time to sow.

Slide 22 He walks up and down the field, from one end to the other. With a large gesture, he throws large handfuls of his good seed.

The field has no fence so some seeds are falling by the wayside...

Quickly **Slide 23** birds rush on them and peck them.

And now those good seeds have disappeared, they are lost!

Slide 24 More seeds fall **Slide 25** among the stones. **Slide 26** They germinate very quickly but there is not enough soil, the little shoots do not have many roots, they are thin fragile.

Slide 27 And when the sun comes out, they dry up. They are lost too!

Slide 28 More seeds fall **Slide 29** among the brambles that border the field. These brambles have a lot of thorns and leaves.

Slide 30 The small plants are quickly suffocated and **Slide 31** disappear. Lost again !

Slide 32 More seeds fall **Slide 33** into the well prepared earth, good soil without stones, without brambles. **Slide 34** Small plants germinate and grow. The roots sink into the ground, they find moisture and **Slide 35** the stems develop, grow, they turn very green, long and strong. **Slide 36** An ear is formed which also develops.

Slide 37 - These ears are magnificent, says the farmer one day, they are beginning to take a

Slide 38 beautiful golden color

He examines them carefully:

- Oh! **Slide 39** In this ear there are 30 kernels, **Slide 40** in this one 60, and **Slide 41** in this one, better still 100 grains:

Slide 42 - It will be a really good harvest! " he says joyfully.

Slide 43 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

And our question? **Slide 44** What is a good land for Jesus? **Slide 45** A good soil! It is a land that will allow the seed to grow develop and bear much fruit. It represents the heart of the person **Slide 46** who loves hearing and reading the Gospel, **Slide 47** who believes in Jesus and **Slide 48** wants to do what, is pleasing to him, to obey him. He bears good fruit **Slide 49** by doing what is right.

Slide 50 The grains pecked by the birds... they represent all the words which are heard but which **Slide 51** a moment later are forgotten, gone. Nothing is left.

Slide 52 The stony ground is the heart of one who is **Slide 53** happy to hear the beautiful stories of Jesus but who finds it **Slide 54** hard to obey. When there are hard times **Slide 55** he stops to believe, become discouraged. It has no roots.

Slide 56 As for the thorns, do you know what they represent? They represent **Slide 57** worries, concerns, **Slide 58** desires that we may have and which take up so **Slide 59** much space, that they suffocate the heart and make people forget the good words of Jesus.

Slide 60 I suggest that you reflect on this parable, **Slide 61** you will gradually understand it better. **Slide 62** And when you walk in a wheat field for example, take the opportunity to examine the ears, grains, **Slide 63** you can also question the farmer.

Slide 64 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

Slide 65 We often repeat the same things to our children and it tires us out. Pity, but we have to admit that they are not always willing to listen. Yet we persevere for their good, knowing that what we sow we will harvest.

Regarding the spiritual life, it is the same. **Slide 66** We want to sow good things in the hearts of our children. Isn't it **Slide 67** the most beautiful of all gardens?

Very quickly, **Slide 68** friends, the media and many more people will come to deposit all kinds of seeds in them: good seeds but also bad seeds.

So, from an early age, let us regularly **Slide 69** deposit in their hearts the good seed of the Word of God. How? By living it ourselves in the family, by talking to them about Jesus, encouraging them day after day to live it themselves, so that their faith may take root and that it bears fruit.

Slide 70 Nature teaches us that all seeds need time to take root and **Slide 71** grow. They also need **Slide 72** to be watered regularly with our prayers and by the action of the Holy Spirit.

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