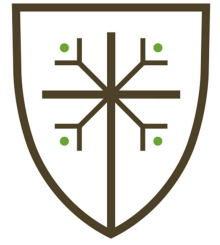


# PARABLES OF JESUS

Summer Sermon Series

# SERMON NOTES



August 13, 2023

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

The Implanted Word

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Song of Songs 1:5-6; 4:1-3

James 1:19-25

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What type of soil are you right now? Have there been times in your life when you have been of another type?
2. What things in your life can you get rid of in order to, as Tim said, "make room in your soul for God's Word?"

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This Sunday, Tim continued our summer series on the parables of Jesus with the parable of the sower and the seeds. In answering the question, "What more than anything will determine the outcome of your life?" we considered two points: a paradigm for God and a taxonomy for people.

### A Paradigm for God:

Jesus is the subject of his own parable. He is the sower implanting the seed of the Word of God, planting seeds that will take root in our souls. We must imagine ourselves to be like soil, receiving that seed. That which comes from outside taking root within. God is one who so earnestly desires us to know him and to be known by him that he goes after us and casts his word that he might take root in our souls.

The setting of our parable is Jesus sitting beside the sea. In the culture of the day, the sea represents everything that is wrong with the world – sin, chaos, and death itself. Jesus leaves the safety of the house and goes to sit down on the edge of death to speak to those on the edge of death. And this is what Jesus does for us. He has gone out to you and me. He has a desire to be near people who are in the broken, chaotic, edge-of-death places of the world in order that we might hear him. The God of the Bible is relentless. He goes after us with a never-stopping love.

### A Taxonomy for People

There are four types of soils shown in this parable. And they represent four different types of people receiving the implanted Word of God. The first soil, Jesus calls a path. A path is made to receive feet, not seeds. These people are hardened by all the activity in the world, compacted more and more by culture, politics, etc., and carried along by what others do and say.

The second soil is called rocky ground. The seed falls here, quickly takes root, and then is scorched by the sun. These are those who hear, receive, profess, and follow the Word of God, but it is temporary. Martin Luther called these "weather change" people. There is no depth, no roots.

The third soil is filled with weeds. And, like the second soil, these people also receive the word, but unlike the second, there is no joy. They don't have room for joy amongst all the other things crowding out their soul. There is no foundation; they are simply pulled in one direction and then another. And there is no dramatic departure like soil two, just a gradual squeezing out and lack of interest.

Whatever words sink deepest into your soul will determine the trajectory and outcome of your life. Just like the woman in Song of Songs, we are all "very dark" with our own sin, but there is one who sees us with eyes of grace and goes out, seeking to implant his Word in you because he longs for you to know and be known by him.

The fourth type of soil has the shortest description. Because it is, simply, those who bear fruit. So, as Tim encouraged us this week, make room for the Word of God in your soul because it will bear fruit.