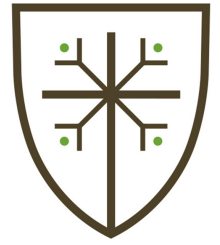


# PARABLES OF JESUS

Summer Sermon Series

# SERMON NOTES



August 20, 2023

## SERMON INFO

### TITLE

The Difference of Good Soil

### PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

### TEXTS

Isaiah 40:6-8

1 Peter 5:5-11

Matthew 13:10-11, 16, 18-23

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you see persecution and tribulation "scorching your soul?"
2. How can you tell when you are being deceived by the good things of the world and they are choking out the Word of God?

## SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim's sermon focused again on the parable of the soils. But whereas last week's sermon focused more on the first three types of soils, this week we looked more carefully at the fourth – the good soil. What does it look like to be this good soil? To be different from the world around us instead of choked out by it?

### The Difference

In the gospels, we often find Jesus creating distance from the crowds. He begins in the midst of them and then moves out further, often onto the water. And from there, he calls the disciples to come out to him. He calls those who hunger for more of him. That's the difference between the disciples and the rest of the crowd. They want more, desire more from Jesus. They are the good soil. The good soil not only understands the word that is implanted, but also clings to it, welcomes it.

There is more behind wanting and desiring than simply the mind deciding it wants something. The state of our soul determines our receptivity to every message, including God's. So what can we do to make our souls "good soil" for God's word? Any and all faith must come first as a gift from God. But then, like the disciples, we must ask for more. Take hold of the seed of that desire for God and ask for more.

### The Enemies

Each of the first three soil types in Jesus' parable is faced with an enemy. The birds that eat away the seeds from the first soil are Satan, the evil one who devours and snatches away that which seeks to give life and light. The sun that scorches the plants in the second soil is persecution and tribulation. What we see happening to the trees and grass in Texas is happening to us. Tribulation and persecution can scorch and burn up your faith. And finally, the thorns that choke out the plants in the third soil are the inordinate desires of the world. The flesh seeks to rule over us and is deceptive in seeking to do so. Who can tell when God's Word is being choked out by seemingly good things like success? But these things will always leave us feeling restless, always seeking. We were made for God alone to fill us and give us rest.