

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13: 1-23

11th July 2021

Intro:

- In a series looking at the Parables of Jesus. The words and teaching of Jesus.
- A parable earthly story with a heavenly meaning. It is a story told by Jesus to illustrate a spiritual lesson, usually using situations or images that are common. We will through the Matthew, Mark and Luke the parables of Jesus and how he uses ordinary everyday situations to illustrate a point and teach a lesson his followers
- Recap quickly what Josh spoke about last week (**the parable of the good Samaritan**) importance of loving our neighbors.
- How does this fit in the bigger we are talking about: Jesus People, transition, revival ready, foundations.

This week:

The Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13. This parable is key to unlocking all the other parables. The parable of the sower is an allegory (*a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning*) about the Kingdom of God

Mathew 13 1-9; 18-23 (NIV)

Verses from 1-9: "That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."

(Summarise the discussion between Jesus and his disciples)

Verses from 18-23: "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 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. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

MAIN:

Farmer = God

Seed = Word of God

Soil = Heart

Path: birds eat seeds = hears but does not understand it.

- The seed on the path represents people who hear the message, but it is immediately lost... its stays on surface level so it is easy for the enemy to come, and steal was sown.
- Hardened heart. sits on the surface, if there is not a breaking on the soil, a breaking of our hearts the seed is planted in a way that is easy for the enemy to take away easily what was planted.
- (Personal story) of just sitting under teaching and hearing but not letting the word penetrate deep down my heart and soul to bring about change.

Rocky: not much soil, sprang up quickly, shallow soil, no root = hears word, receives with joy but had no root.

- fall quickly when trouble comes. **(give up easily)**
- Last only a short time but fall away quickly in times of testing
- Things that come up season after season, things that never get dealt with that become rocks in our lives. Thoughts patterns, habits, addictions.
- Being community and dealing with the rocks in our heart/lives. Being accountable.
- **James 1:21** "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you." (NIV)

Thorns: choked plants = hears word, worries of life & deceitfulness of wealth choke, making it unfruitful.

- Planted but not fruitful. **(distracted) They do not mature.**
- divided attention/divided mind
- fear and anxiety, deceitfulness that comes with riches, title, positions, money.
- Identity is not in title, role, income or even how God uses us.
- Being a son and a daughter is our first and foremost identity. We are the ones who he called to himself. Everything else is a bonus, everything else is an extra.

- Desires of other things, things outside of that which God would provide, issue of comparison is the problem for the desire for other things. Appetite, stewardship.

Good: grew & produced crop & multiplied 30, 60 & 100 = those who hear, understand and obey the word

- Nobel and good heart (Luke 8)
- Those who persevere, producing crop.

We get to choose the type of soil we are.

This is not a time for guilt and shame, but it is a time to recognise what condition our heart is in and align it for kingdom purposes. As Jesus People we want to be fully hungry for his will, giving up whatever needs to be given up.

Application: We get to choose the type of soil we are

1. Identify the soil: How's your dirt?

- Ask the Holy to spirit to help identify the condition of our hearts. Spend time in prayer and ask God to reveal things deep within our lives.
- **Psalm 139: 23- 24** "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." (NIV)

2. Remain in His word

John 15: 5-8 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (NIV)

3. Action it

- As God leads deal with the things he's revealing
- Deal with the rocks in our lives in community.

Being on good soil is a continued process, it is a daily heart check.