

The Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

Introduction:

1. Series Intro:

- Parables: **A earthly story with a Heavenly meaning. Each story contains Biblical truth.** Jesus taught using over 40 parables. He was a master at taking material things in this world to teach us about God and about the kingdom of God. In other words, these parables give us a glimpse into the kingdom of God. Jesus came to save people from their sins and create a new way of living.
- His parables are stories to teach us about God and how Christ followers are supposed to live here on this earth.

2. **Illus:** Growth (Intro to the sermon)

3. **Matthew 13:1-23** Commentary

- #### 4.
- Jesus is making this point that the seed has not changed. It is the same. The place where it lands is different. The success of the seed has everything to do with where it lands. If the Word is not working, it is not the Word that is not working, it is the heart in which it is being received that is not working.

5. **If the Word is not working, we have to check the ground that it landed on.**

6. Jesus mentions different types of ground:

- **Wayward Ground (The Hard heart)** – Kind of interested in what the Word says, but not that much. Easily distracted from the things of God. They see material things and go after that. These

are the hearts of people that may come to church every now and then, but do nothing with it when they leave.

- **Rocky Ground (Shallow heart)** – Whatever decision that they make does not last long. These are those who make big decisions, and they are gone weeks after. New Year's Resolutions – decisions are gone by January 3. If you have found yourself further from God today than you used to be, God is not the one who moved.
- **Thorny Ground (Divided heart)** – Materialism and this world stops this heart from doing anything with the Word of God. What God's Word says takes a back seat to everything else in your life.
- **Good Ground (Open Heart)** – Look at how fruitful the seed is. When Jesus talks about 30, 60, 100-fold, he is referring to something miraculous. The point is that when the Word of God takes root in your life, it produces miraculous fruit. This shows up in the way you forgive others, the way you respond to meeting people's needs, how kind you become, or in how generous you are. In just a few verses down, Jesus compares the Word to a small acorn that produces a mighty oak tree. If you allow the Word of God to take root in your life, receive it with an open heart, the fruit you produce will be miraculous.

- #### 7.
- How can we receive the Word with open hearts – how can the Word fall on good ground in your life?

I. Prepare your heart for the Word

- **Hear the Word** – The Word and the Gospel can be used simultaneously. The Word is the Good News that Jesus died for you and me. Later in this chapter, Jesus says that the kingdom of Heaven (The Word) is like a treasure that is so good that nothing compares to it. In other words, you prize it above everything else. That is hearing the Word. It is listening intently to what the Scripture says.
- **Receive the Word** – Embrace the truth. Believe it as truth. Recognize it that way, and believe what it says. **I Thessalonians 1:6-7** speaks of receiving the Word. They received the Word with much affliction. In other words, the Word meant more to them than the safety or security that they desired. They also received it with joy. Jesus wants you and I to see the Word of God as precious and to embrace it because the joy of the Lord is found in it. In verse 7, the Word changed their lives. It made them an example. **The seed when received with an open heart will change you.**
- **Obey the Word** – **James 1:22** says “But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” James goes on to say that those who hear God’s Word and do nothing about it are like people who wake up, look at themselves in the mirror and don’t fix a thing.

II. **Surround yourself with the Word**

- **Spend time in the Word** – You have to understand that what food is to the physical body; so the Word is to our spiritual body. You will decay and die

spiritually without the Word of God. It sustains you.

- **Surround yourself with the Word** – What you find is that we usually become what or who we are around. For some of you, you need to start finding yourself in positions to have the Word of God speak into you. Church; Bible Fellowship; Music. These are all ways that we can allow the Word of God to get into us.

Conclusion:

1. **What soil describes the condition of your heart?**
2. **I think somewhere down the road, the evangelical church has gotten good with the production for God and weak at the presence of God.** Many people have a weak experience with God’s presence because we have only known life for Him and not with Him.
3. **Illus:** Tennis during Covid – I just liked the family being together.
4. **Illus:** Your time in a marriage relationship is good because of the time you spend together. It isn’t where it is today because of one event or conference. It is spending time together every single day. It is a relationship.
5. **This is not just a commandment, it is an invitation.**
6. **The Word is important because it is the way into the presence of God.** It is the way to hear the Word of God.
7. Pray and let the Spirit lead