

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 8/18/2024

Kingdom Stories Week 12 – Matthew 13:1-23 Parable of the Sower

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- **Mt 13:9** Ears that hear – if you really want to hear the depth of the Word, if you want to know Jesus better, then lean in, listen, take it in. Really hear Me, Jesus is saying.
- **Mt 13:10-16** Why do you teach in parables, the disciples asked Jesus.
 - I teach you this way so it's harder to understand.
 - Jesus wants you to wrestle with it, dig in and sit with it; not spoon feed you
- There are actually **two** parables in this passage of Scripture.

The Parable of the Four Soils

- **The Path:** hard, compacted dirt. It's dirt, not soil!
 - The seed has no shot.
 - **The seed is unplanted and unprotected.**
- **The Rocky Places:** You hear a feel good gospel, but don't want to do anything beyond that.
 - **The seed is planted without a long-term commitment to grow.**
- **The Thorns:** the soil is actually good; lots grows there
 - There are times when stress or material gain choke you out.
 - Things of the world become more important than the Word.
 - When Jesus is not the center of your life, it chokes you out!
 - **The seed is planted but is distracted by worry and selfish ambition.**
- **The Good Soil:**
 - **The seed is planted, rooted, and committed to grow.**
- **Mt. 13:8** Good soil always produces a significant return.
- **** Which soil are you? ****
 - If you're good soil today, don't sit back, there could be thorns or rocks tomorrow.

The Parable of the Sower

- The sower acts like he can never run out of seed. He sows everywhere!
- **God does not withhold from any type of ground.**
 - Why? Because He is generous.
 - He has something that can change your life.
 - No matter where you are, God sees you and loves you.
- **Wherever you find yourself, God's seed is in abundance.**
 - He's not giving up on you because he genuinely cares about you.
- **Good soil can show up anywhere.**
 - That's why God casts seed everywhere.
 - You can go from path, rocks or thorns to good soil just like that.
- Jesus can change your life!

Car Conversation:

1. Why does the type of soil matter so much when you want to see something grow?
2. What type of soil does my life show?
3. Am I ready to commit my life to being good soil?

The Bottom Line

- No matter where you find yourself, there's seed around you because He's just that good.
- No matter where you find yourself, good soil can be cultivated.