

Sermon Title: The Seed of the Kingdom

Date: 06-16-2025

Pray and Read the Text together

- **Sermon Text:** Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Some Possible Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be “fruitful” in Christ? What does that mean in a day to day life, or over a period of someone’s life?
2. What are circumstances, events, or daily distractions or issues that make it a challenge to read your Bible?
3. How difficult is it to be counted as a Christian in New England? What are some of the pressures? What are some ways to overcome those pressures? What does it mean to be accounted to the faith?
4. Is money the root of all evil? (see 1 Tim 6:10). What are ways that wealth, possessions, and their associated responsibilities impact our spiritual life? Are there ways the lack of money hinder our spiritual lives?

Passage Context

- This is our Summer series on parables, #2. This passage begins the parables in Matthew. In our passage, the first part is Jesus speaking to the crowd, and the second is the interpretation given to His disciples.

Sermon Introduction

- Every Sunday we aim to glorify God, pursue our greatest joy, and bless our community. We do this through singing the Word, praying the Word, reading the Word, preaching the Word, and seeing the Word (through the sacraments).
- Like Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dry Bones, we believe and trust that through the proclamation of God’s Word, the Spirit of God awakens and revives the spiritually dead.
- So it should not be a surprise that the enemy, the world, and our own sinful flesh conspire to keep us from the Word.
- From the beginning, the devil tried to convince Eve that God’s word was wrong (Gen 3:1), the world tries to convince us the Word is unreliable, and our own flesh prefers to scroll on our phones than read the word.

Sermon Outline

The Animating Seed

- In this parable, the main character is “the seed.” It is an animating seed (from the latin – “*anima*” meaning life or soul) because it brings forth life. The seed is the word of the Kingdom of God (v19).
- Matthew first introduces the Word of the Kingdom in Matt. 4:4, “*man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*”
- Jesus also presents His own words as words of the kingdom in Matt 7:24, 26, “*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock...*”
- The words of the kingdom are the Old Testament and the continued revelation in the New.
- Many passages affirm the power of the Word: 1 Pe 1:23, James 1:18, Col 1:5b-6, as well as the entirety of Psalm 119 (examples 119:25, 92-93, 107).

- The seed that animates our life is the very word of God—the word that makes known and calls us to the King and his kingdom

The Antagonistic Soil

- It is, therefore, no surprise that attacks against our faith come as attacks against God's Word, from three sources:
 - **The Enemy** – The first soil (v. 4, 19) is where Satan snatches away the word. Usually by: 1) distracting us, causing us to doubt (Ge 3:1), and/or distorting God's word. (2 Pe 3:15-16).
 - **The World** – The second soil (v. 5-6, 20-21) are the cultural pressures of the fallen world around us, including tribulation and persecution, which drive away those looking for an easy faith. Following Jesus will cost us: acceptance (John 15:19), relationships (Matt. 10:34-37), security (Matt. 5:11-12, 2 Tim. 3:12), and respect in the world (1 Pe 4:3-4). The world fights against the seed because it is against the king (John 15: 18-20; 1 John 3:13). See also Luke 14: 27-30.
 - **The Flesh** – The third soil (v. 7, 22) is our own desires, including cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches (on riches, see Matt. 6:24, 19:23-24, 1 Tim 6:9-10, 2 Tim 4:). See also 1 John 2:16-17.

The Abundant Fruits

- This is the fourth soil – that yields abundant fruit. (v. 8, 23). While the word is opposed by many things, for those who have ears to hear and eyes to see, the word takes hold of their heart and it yields fruit in abundance.
- God is often imaged in scripture as a gardener (Ge 2:8, Ex 15:17, Is 5:4, Jer 2:21).
- What is the fruit he wants us to yield? Repentance and spiritual maturity. (Matt. 3:8, Gal 5:22-23).

Sermon Conclusion

- Many may think being a Christian is about having a large, impactful platform, a social media presence, making our culture more “Christian,” going on mission trips, etc. While these are good and noble, bearing fruit for God is simple—first, love God by hating and repenting of your sins; second, love your neighbor by sowing and walking in the Spirit.
- *“For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.”* (2 Pe. 1:8–9)

[#Sermon Link](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **Every Sunday** – prayer at the church at 6pm, Youth Group at 7pm
- **Back to School Drive** - June and July
- **VBA** – July 14-18 (at Elmwood)
- **Summer Palooza** – July 20
- **Meal Train sign-ups**

Next Sunday's text: Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43, 47-50; **Theme:** The Weeds/The Net