Title: Matt 13 The Sower

INTRO: **Gardening**. Covid. Tomatoes. Cucumbers. Peppers. Zucchini. Haha!

I. The Sower

A. **God** - Father sent the Son. Son came & gave willingly. Holy Spirit sent to change hearts.
B. **The Church** - The vessel of the Message. Carrier of the News.
C. **Preachers/Preaching** - Good Seed. The Truth of the Word. Gospel of Jesus.
D. **Believers** - Making Disciples who Make Disciples. Reduplicating ourselves.

APPLICATION:

1. **We can't make it grow.** Give life. Bear fruit. We spread the seed and wait. And pray. Hope.
2. **Put the Seed out there.** Good Seed. The right seed. The Gospel. The Word of the Kingdom and the King (Jesus)
3. **Not about the strength of the ground.** Only if its ready to receive the seed. Everything needed for life and growth is in the seed (The Word). The Gospel.

II. The Seeds

A. The Word of Truth. *The Kingdom. The Gospel. Redeeming. Saving. Ruling.*
B. Where they land. *The soil.* ***Hearts****.*
C. Good soil = ***Growth. Preparing the soil.***
1. Sometimes he needs to till it up.
2. Sometimes he needs to water/soak.
3. Sometimes he needs to completely clear and grade.
4. Sometimes he needs to introduce elements.
D. FRUIT: Wheat. Vineyard. Olive Tree. Oaks of Righteousness. Mustard.
E. Isaiah 55. Read it! *Complete transformation. It will accomplish its purpose.*

APPLICATION:

1. **Starts small and grows into something BIG.** Spread. Expanded. Safety. Difference.
2. **Multiplies.** Fruitful. Reproduces. Make Disciples.
3. **Kept.** He keeps it and stores for his purposes. Useful for the kingdom.

III. The Weeds

A. **Path** > Birds: Evil one snatches. Doesn't allow it. Blocks it.
B. **Rocks** > Springs up. Sun scorches. Tribulation. Suffering. Persecution. Confusion.
C. **Thorns** > Choked. Distraction. Sin. Temptation. Busyness. Cares of World. Greed. Stuff. Comfort. Amusement.
D. **Weeds** > Enemy. Evil One. Children of Devil. Unbelievers. Wait. Be patient. Not our job to sort them or weed them out. His job. He will in the end.

APPLICATION:

1. **Sometimes its too early to tell.** Sometimes they aren't, but we don't know**.**
2. **There will always be some in the church who are not truly believers.**
3. **Sometimes sins/unbelief is not clear.** Only God truly knows the heart.
4. **Some people don't know they're not saved.** Assume. Presume. Think.
5. **We treat everyone with love and respect.** Don't expect fruit from them. Mercy.
6. **We treat unbelievers as unbelievers.** We treat believers as sinners saved by grace.

CONCLUSION:

He's giving people time to repent. It's his kindness that He delays. Mercy to sinners who would still believe and receive the Word. He doesn't root out all evil yet, b/c of Mercy.

George and Betty Kerr. 91 and 93 years old. Oldest in our church. Cramming for finals. But if Jesus had come back 100 years ago, they and none of us would have had the opportunity to live, believe and live eternity with Him. That's ONLY His grace!