

Message Notes

The Parable of the Soils
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Gospel of Matthew, part 45
June 19, 2005

Message Outline

The Parable of the Soils
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Gospel of Matthew, part 45
June 19, 2005

I. The SEED

= “the word of the kingdom” (13:19) = the Gospel

- A. The Seed is alive (1 Peter 1:23)
- B. The Seed is powerful (Romans 1:16)
- C. The Seed is renewing & reproducing (Matthew 13:23)

II. The SOWER

= Jesus Himself = Jesus Christ though His people

- A. The Sower isn't responsible for the fruitfulness of the seed.
- B. The Sower is faithful in sowing the seed.

III. The SOILS

= the hearts of the hearers (13:19)

- A. **The Hardened Heart:** “some seeds fell beside the road and the birds came and ate them up” (13:4, 19)
- B. **The Superficial Heart:** “others fell on rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up” (13:5-6, 20-21)
- C. **The Distracted Heart:** “others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out” (13:7, 22)
- D. **The Prepared Heart:** “others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop” (13:8, 23)

Growth Group Understanding Questions

The Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Gospel of Matthew, part 45

1. Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 again. In Matthew's gospel, what does Jesus' teaching in parables follow on the heels of? What have we learned about the Pharisees' hearts from Matthew 12 these last 3 weeks?
2. What is the SEED in the parable? How do we know? Why are seeds so wondrous and amazing? What does this imply about what the seeds represent in the parable?
3. Who is the SOWER in the parable? Is the sower responsible for the fruitfulness of the seed? What is he responsible for?
4. What are the SOILS in the parable? Look closely at the difference between the four soils.
5. What is Jesus trying to teach in the parable? What's his point?

Growth Group Application Questions

The Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Gospel of Matthew, part 45

1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week for you?
2. Why are parables an effective teaching tool?
3. What are ways that the soil of our hearts become "hardened"? What are some of the worries of the world that can choke out the Word? How are riches deceitful to the poor and rich alike?
4. Describe a time in your life when you were the "soil by the road"? The "rocky soil"? The "soil with thorns"? The "good soil"? What is the condition of your heart in relation to God's Word, the Gospel, today?
5. What are some ways we can prepare our own soils (hearts) and move from one soil type to another?

What's Up with Growth Groups?

Growth Groups are one of the best ways to jump into life at Grace! After a great Spring, we are looking forward to Fall Growth Groups, but taking a break this summer. We believe that Growth Groups are the best way to make a large and growing church feel like a small church.

So our goal is to have 25 Growth Groups this Fall. Be planning ahead and making room in your schedule for a Growth Group this Fall.

For more information see the Growth Groups brochure or contact Pastor Steve.