

Sermon: The Task of Scattering Seed.
Series: *Gathering and Scattering*

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-23.
Date: June 2, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) As you think about this parable, what does it tell us about the heart and character of God?

2. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) The sower is Jesus/his disciples; the seed is the gospel; the soil is the hearer. Jesus describes three kinds of "bad soil": Hard soil (no reception at all), shallow soil (trials destroy faith), divided soil (the cares of this life choke faith). Which of these can you most relate with? Which one were you before coming to Christ?

b) Think together about the warning attached to each bad soil, and the subsequent question:

- Hard soil: Beware! Hardening your heart to the gospel leads to destruction.
- Q: Are you hardening your heart to the gospel in any way?
- Shallow soil: Watch out! A faith without roots is no faith at all?
- Q: Is your faith an enduring faith? What is the object of your faith?
- Divided soil: Be on guard! A divided heart will choke out faith.
- Q: Is your commitment to Christ greater than your commitment to anything else?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read John 12:24-26. Jesus calls himself the seed that must die in the ground so that it can give new life. What are the implications of this truth - Jesus is the seed and we are the soil? What must the seed of Christ in the soil of your heart look like? What will it produce (Mt. 13:23)?

APPLICATION

a) What should/can it look like for the church to scatter the seed of the gospel in our community? What should/can it look like for you personally to scatter the seed of the gospel? Can you identify anyone that is receptive "good soil" and needs to hear the gospel?

b) Like the farmer in the parable, we scatter the gospel seed without worrying what soil it will land on. How does this truth give you courage and grace to share the gospel?

PRAYER

- Praise God for being a life sharing God.
- Confess ways that you have slipped back into the habits of bad soil.
- Thank Jesus for giving his life both FOR us and TO us as a seed of new life.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to scatter the seed of the gospel lavishly.