

Preparing the Hearts Soil

November 17, 2024 | *Matthew 13:1-23*

PREPARING THE HEART'S SOIL:

AN INVITATION TO GROW TOGETHER.



Observations from Matthew 13:1-23:

What is happening in these verses?

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” - Matthew 13:23

Opening Question: “What would it look like if our hearts were ready to receive God’s Word, grow deeply, and flourish abundantly - individually and as a community?”

- **The Symbolism of the Parable:**
 - **The Sower:** Christ and those who share in the Word with others.
 - **The Seed:** The Word of God - The Gospel message.
 - **The Soil:** The Hearts Condition towards receiving.
- **The Types of Soil:** A persons mind and heart towards the Word.
 - **The Path:** Hardened Hearts that can't receive the Word. They are not ready.
 - **Rocky Ground:** A Superficial faith that lacks depth.
 - **Thorns:** Distracted or caught up by the world; this chokes spiritual growth.
 - **Good Soil:** An open heart that receives the Word, leading to growth and bearing fruit.

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life”

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Lessons from Matthew 13:1-23:

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

- **The Soil and the Seed:** - The Seed (The Word) does not change, but the soil (a persons heart). Examine your heart and openness to God and his Word.
 - *Isaiah 55:10-11 and Hebrews 4:12*
 - **God Meets People Where They Are:** - No matter where you are or where you come from, what matters is that your soil is ready to receive the Word.
 - *Matthew 11:28-30, Psalm 51:10*
 - **Grow and bear fruit:** The seed will grow on good soil, it will bear fruit.
 - *Matthew 7:16-20, Galatians 5:22-23 and John 15:5*
 - **Sow the Word to Others:** Just as in nature deals in abundance, so too does the Word and salvation available for all. As you grow in Christ, you too are called to scatter the seed of the Word.
 - *Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:20 and Psalm 126:6*
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Application from Matthew 13:1-23

How can I apply / live out these verses?

- **Reflect on your own Hearts Soil:**
 - Ask yourself "*what kind of soil represents my heart right now?*"
 - Be encouraged to have a heart for God, his Word, and receiving salvation.
 - **Move your heart to Good Soil:**
 - **For the Path:** Be Open to God, his Word, and Salvation in Christ.
 - *Ezekiel 36:26, Romans 12:2, Psalm 139:23-24 and James 1:21*
 - **Rocky Ground:** Grow deep roots in Christ. Remain in Him in all seasons.
 - *Colossians 2:6-7, Hebrews 12:11, James 1-4, Psalm 1:2-3*
 - **Thorns:** In Christ there is nothing to worry about. Remove distractions.
 - *Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:6-7, Matthew 13:22*
 - **Good Soil:** Bear Fruit and sow the seed for others
 - *2 Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 5:16, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:5, Psalm 126:6*
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