

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

James 1:1-12

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER, SEED, AND SOILS Matthew 13:1-23

Main Thought: The parable of the sower teaches us that we have a responsibility to proclaim the good news of Jesus to the world knowing that not everyone will receive it by faith but those who do will give evidence of a growing spiritual life.

1. THE _____ OF THE SOWER, SEED, AND SOILS (vv 1-9)

- 1) The _____ and _____.
- 2) The _____.

2. WHY _____ SPOKE TO THE PEOPLE IN PARABLES. (vv 10-17)

- 1) A parable is an _____ story with a _____ meaning.
- 2) Jesus spoke in parables to:
 - (1) Reveal truth in everyday terms to those who would receive it by _____.
 - (2) Conceal truth from those who refuse to _____.

3. _____ THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER, SEED, AND SOILS. (vv 18-23)

- 1) The sower – at first Jesus now it is his _____.
- 2) The seed – the _____ of God, the _____ of Jesus
- 3) The soils – the human heart
 - (1) The _____ path
 - (2) The _____ / _____ soil
 - (3) The _____ / _____ soil
 - (4) The _____ soil

4. _____ AND _____ FOR US

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Matthew 12 and 13:1-23.

2. What is the setting and context of Jesus speaking to the disciples and the crowd in parables?

3. What is a parable?

4. What are the key elements of the parable of the sower? Why would the people have been familiar with such a story?

5. How did Jesus end the parable in verse 9? Why do you think he ends it that way?

6. How did Jesus respond when the disciples asked him why he spoke to the people in parables?

1) What are the secrets of the kingdom of heaven which have been given to the disciples but not others?

2) What is it that some people “have” that they will receive more of? What is it that some people don’t have, so even what they have will be taken from them?

3) How can someone see but not see and hear but not hear or understand?

4) What do the people of Jesus’ day have in common with the people of Isaiah’s day so that the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in them?

5) Is God justified in having such an attitude toward the people of Isaiah’s day and the crowd of Jesus day?

7. How are the disciples and Christ followers today blessed by what we hear, see, and know from the Scriptures?

8. What are the spiritual truths taught in the parable of the sower and soils? Who is the sower? What is the seed? What do the soils represent?

9. What soil do you identify with?

10. As followers of Christ, our hearts should be represented by the good soil which means there should be spiritual growth and transformation happening in our lives. In what ways do you see growth and maturing happening in your life? Share an area in your life where you need prayer for growth?

11. What other spiritual truths/lessons do you see in this parable?