

Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — July 17, 2022

Sermon Notes: “On Being Good Soil,” [Matthew 13:1-23](#), by Dr. Brian Russell, Professor of Biblical Studies, Asbury Seminary.

Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 6:9-13](#)

New Testament Reading: [John 1:10-12](#)

What we will learned last week: ([Matthew 12:38-50](#))

- The problem of unbelief, in this passage, that of the Jewish leadership
- They ask for a sign, but it will not be what they expect.
- The danger of purposeless deliverance
- The Kingdom is bigger than our families and demands our highest allegiance.

What we will learn this week: ([Matthew 13:1-23](#))

- What might we learn about the Sower, the seed, the soil, and the plant?
- Why does Jesus speak in parables to all but the disciples?
- What are conditions of the soil that leads to unfruitfulness or fruitfulness of the plant?
- What is it that grows from good soil and what does it produce?

What agricultural metaphor does Jesus use for this teaching?
([Mathew 13:1-8](#))

He ends this parable with a saying “Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ([Matthew 13:9](#)) What does Jesus mean by this saying? (See also, e.g., [Revelation 2:11,17, 29](#))

To whom is Jesus speaking at that place and time? ([Matthew 13:10](#))

To whom does Jesus provide an explanation? ([Matthew 13:11-12](#))

Why did Jesus speak in parables? ([Matthew 13:13-15](#))

(Over)

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Who from times before would have been eager to hear what Jesus was saying? ([Matthew 13:16-17](#))

Were the leaders and the crowds of people ready to receive Jesus and what he had to say? ([John 1:10-12](#); [Matthew 11-12](#))

What three things, not just two, do we need to do to receive the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? ([Matthew 13:15c](#))

Jesus then provides an explanation of the parable to the disciples. In what manner does the Sower spread the seed?

Match the items in the left hand column with my_(TAG) interpretation on the right?

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Sower | A) New life in the Spirit of God |
| 2. Seed | B) Heart or soul of a person |
| 3. Soil | C) Gospel of Jesus Christ |
| 4. Plant | D) Jesus/Proclaimer of the Gospel |

What is the specific quality of the soil along the path that is unable to provide a place for the seed to grow into a new plant? And what happens to the seed? ([Matthew 13:19](#))

What is the condition of the rocky soil that makes the plant unable to grow and mature through difficulties? ([Matthew 13:20-21](#))

What is in the soil among the seed that chokes out the maturing plant to cause it not to produce seed itself? ([Matthew 13:22](#))

What is the conditions of the good soil when it hears the Word and, consequently allows the plant to produce much new seed ? ([Matthew 13:23](#))

Additional Notes:

Internet Resources: [The Bible Project: Matthew 1-13](#); [Matthew Overview Poster](#)

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