

Silver Creek Fellowship NOTES

July 7

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD A PARABLE ABOUT PARABLES

The Parable: Matthew 13:1–11(NLT) "Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. ² A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³ He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: 'Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴ As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!' ⁹ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.' ¹⁰ His disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you use parables when you talk to the people?' ¹¹ He replied, 'You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not.'"

1. Insight into truth is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 16:15-17 (NLT) ¹⁵Then he asked them, 'But who do you say I am?' ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' ¹⁷Jesus replied, 'You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.'"

1 Corinthians 12:3 (NLT) "So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit."

Ephesians 2:8 (NLT) "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God."

Matthew 13:12- 13 (NLT) ¹²"To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. ¹³That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don't really see. They hear, but they don't really listen or understand."

2. Insight into truth is a matter of the heart.

Matthew 13: 14-18 (NLT) ¹⁴"This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, 'When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. ¹⁵ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.' ¹⁶But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but they didn't see it. And they longed to hear what you hear, but they didn't hear it. ¹⁸Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: '"

WARNINGS

1. Beware of listening to God with a hard heart.

Matthew 13:19 (NLT) "The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts."

2. Beware of listening to God with a shallow heart

Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT) "The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word."

3. Beware of listening to God with a divided heart.

Matthew 13:22 (NLT) "The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced."

James 1:22 (NLT) "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."

Psalm 86:11 (NIV) "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."

Matthew 13:23 (NLT) "The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

THE KEY TO A 4TH SOIL HEART

Allow God to prepare our hearts.

James 1:21 (NLT) "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

2 Chronicles 12:14 (NKJV) "And he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord."

Jeremiah 4:3-4 (NLT) Coming Judgment against Judah "This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and Jerusalem: 'Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns. O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and power. Change your hearts before the Lord, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins.'"

Hosea 10:12 (NLT) "I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'"

John 16:7-8 (NLT) "But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."

1 Corinthians 2:10 (NLT) "But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets."

Ezekiel 36:25-27

Jeremiah 31:33

2 Corinthians 3:3

Romans 5:5

Psalm 51:10

Mark 12:30