



Sermon Questions: *The Sower, the Seed and the Soil*

Date: *September 12, 2021* | Scripture: *Matthew 13:1-23*

1. Jesus had a large, attentive audience (13:1-2). Why did he choose to teach in parables?
2. What is the intended outcome of sowing seed? What does that look like in the parable, and how does the metaphor relate to us?
3. The four types of soil represent responses to the preaching of the kingdom—that is, the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the sermon, the three problematic responses were summarized as stubborn, shallow, and sidetracked. In the parable, these were final states, yet we live in the already-and-not-yet,¹ where the states of our hearts are as yet unclear to us. How would you counsel a friend who was worried that they might fall into one of these categories?
4. The stubborn hearer refuses to listen to Jesus. The shallow hearer is happy to use Jesus, so long as he serves their other needs. The sidetracked hearer recognizes the goodness and importance of the gospel, but is too busy to make changes to follow Jesus. Are any of these responses convicting to you this week? What changes could you make this week to live more consistently with the hope that Jesus has called you to?
5. Fruit takes time—seasons, often years—to appear, even on a healthy tree. Can you see where spiritual fruit has been borne in one another? How about in your own life?

Inward Grace in Action

The questions below are a little more intimate and are meant to be discussed with a trusted friend or partner.

1. Has the gospel been planted in your heart, or are you stapling fruit on a tree?
2. Are we planting the correct seed of the true gospel in church, CG, and our other contexts? Is any one or more of moralism, psychotherapy, politics or philosophy more prominent than Christ in our conversations? How might undue dominance of these affect our love of Christ?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- Psalm 1
- Lamentations 3:16-33
- Matthew 7:12-29
- 1 Corinthians 2
- 2 Peter 1:1-12

Pray with members of our Church family at the Third Thursday Dinner at MPC

Listen to the Spotify playlist, [The Storytelling Savior: Parables in the Gospel of Matthew](#)

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

¹ If this jargon is unfamiliar, please take a moment to discuss it. [This article may prove helpful.](#)