

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 10.08.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

Parable of the Sower - Spiritual Growth, Good Soil

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple is open and adaptable, allowing God's Word to take root and transform every part of life.

OVERVIEW

The Parable of the Sower is about more than how we first respond to the gospel—it's about the ongoing condition of our hearts. Good soil is not a one-time achievement but a continual openness to God's Word, allowing it to penetrate every part of life. Jesus reminds us that the problem is never with the seed, but with the soil.

ACTION

Step 1: This week, commit to asking the Holy Spirit to show you the current state of your heart - the true condition of your "soil".

Step 2: What "weeds" or distractions might be trying to grow up and choke your growth.

Step 3: What is one practical step this week you can take to invite God's Word deeper into your life?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Matt 13:1-23, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14

Jesus begins this parable with the image of a sower scattering seed. The picture is intentionally counterintuitive. It's easy, when we ponder who God is and what He is like, to assume he's only interested in the "big", "important" things. But as usual, Jesus flips this idea on its head. Rather than pointing to something big or impressive, he says, "look at this seed".

The seed represents God's Word - tiny and unassuming, yet containing the potential for an abundant harvest. But the power of this seed is not something we can manufacture on our own; our part is to become soil where it can thrive.

But this is the challenge. This is where we need to begin asking the Spirit what kind of soil we're cultivating. Hard ground doesn't absorb anything. Rocky ground springs life up quickly but without a root that lasts. Thorny ground is overrun with weeds—sometimes these are obvious sins, but often it's just "other things" that zap our strength — worries, busyness, the pursuit of comfort, or the slow creep of distraction — leaving us burnt out and unfruitful.

Good soil is different. It is humble enough to be rearranged. It makes space for growth. It doesn't compartmentalise our spiritual and secular life—finances, relationships, purpose—and allow God to only touch parts of ourselves. It allows the Word to fall everywhere, knowing that every part of our lives is in need of His transforming presence.

And here's the realisation that confronts us: being "good soil" isn't a status we achieve once. It's an ongoing posture. The question isn't "Did I have good soil once?" but "Am I cultivating good soil today?" Because the Sower never stops sowing. His Word keeps coming—week by week, day by day, moment after moment.

It's worth reminding ourselves that weeds don't usually announce themselves; they simply grow, slowly working to choke out what God has planted. Sometimes we don't notice until fruit has stopped growing or cycles of struggle, temptation, and addiction return. That's why we need the Spirit's presence each day, spending time in worship, and staying open to his gentle conviction

Seed work is quiet work—hidden, patient, but persistent—it will always produce fruit when it's given room. God is far more interested in long-term transformation than quick, shallow-rooted growth. So we keep opening ourselves, clearing the weeds, and letting the seed work in the soil of our lives, trusting that in time, the harvest will be thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. What “other things” (not necessarily sinful) can easily distract you from God’s Word taking root?
2. How can we help each other be open, adaptable “good soil” in our community?
3. What practical rhythms could you put in place to regularly examine the “state of your soil”?

PRAYER

Lord, we open our hearts to You again. Remove the weeds—seen and unseen—that choke out Your life in us. Make us a community of good soil, ready to receive Your Word and bear fruit. Shape us into a people whose lives show the steady, transformative power of Your presence in every area.
Amen.