

Lent Day 8 – The Good Soil

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Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:3–9

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Have you ever received advice from a parent, teacher, or friend—and immediately resisted it? Most of us have. When we hear something that affirms what we already want, we are quick to listen. But when the instruction challenges us, exposes us, or calls us to change, we often push back. Sometimes that resistance comes from pride. Sometimes from insecurity. Sometimes from a deep need to prove ourselves right, even when we are wrong.

Jesus tells this parable to people just like us—disciples who genuinely want to follow Him, curious onlookers hoping for a miracle, and others simply looking for something they can use for personal gain. Through the image of a farmer scattering seed, Jesus reveals that the issue is not the quality of the seed, but the condition of the soil. The seed—the Word of God—is good. The question is: what kind of heart receives it?

Some hearts are like the path—hard and closed off. The Word never penetrates. Other hearts are like rocky soil—quick to respond with emotion, but shallow. There is initial excitement, yet no deep root. When hardship comes, faith withers. Still others are like thorny ground—receptive at first, but gradually choked by distractions, anxieties, ambitions, and competing loves.

But then there is good soil. Good soil does not merely hear—it receives. It allows the Word to sink deep, to take root, to grow over time. This kind of heart is shaped by love for God and an ever-deepening awareness of His love for us. The Word is no longer just moral instruction or behavior management; it begins to transform the inner life. It reshapes not only what we do, but who we are.

When Jesus says, “Whoever has ears, let them hear,” He is calling us to more than physical hearing. True hearing involves both mind and heart. It requires humility, repentance, and a willingness to be changed. To truly know God is not simply to understand Him intellectually, but to trust Him deeply.

Today, as you encounter God’s Word, ask yourself: What kind of soil am I? May His grace soften hardened places. May His Spirit deepen shallow roots. May He clear away the thorns that choke spiritual growth. And may His Word sink deeply into your heart—producing fruit that reflects His transforming love.