



Sermon Discussion Guide

08.03.25 Message | Collin Harvey | Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 34-35

"That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, 34-35 (ESV)

Message Highlights:

1. When Jesus speaks, lives change.
2. Jesus uses earthly stories to reveal heavenly truths.
3. The condition of your heart determines how you receive God's word.

4. Understanding is the difference between fruitfulness and falling away.
 5. Camp is a place where hearts are made ready to hear from Jesus.
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Conversation Starter

What's one of your favorite summer memories? Have you ever had a moment where something simple turned into something deeply meaningful?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

1. Collin said during the sermon, "When Jesus speaks, lives change." How have you personally experienced this?
 2. Jesus used parables to reveal what had been hidden. What modern story or image helps you better understand your faith?
 3. Collin noted that the students' posture at camp helped them hear Jesus. What does it look like for you to have the right posture before God?
 4. Collin shared how camp was a space where faith was grown. Where have you found spaces that help you grow spiritually?
 5. Collin emphasized understanding the word, not just hearing it. How can you move from passive hearing to active understanding?
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THINK DEEPER *(Does your group understand the passage?)*

1. What does each soil type reveal about how we engage with God's word? (*Matthew 13:18-22*)
 2. How can we tell if we are truly "good soil"? What are some signs of fruitfulness in your life? (*Matthew 13:23*)
 3. What are some modern-day "weeds and thorns" that choke our faith? (*Matthew 13:22*)
 4. Jesus said, "He who has ears, let him hear." What do you think that means practically for us today? (*Matthew 13:9*)
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THINK LIFE CHANGE *(Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)*

1. What heart posture do you bring into your time with God, and how does it need to shift?
 2. Have you recognized any ways your faith has become shallow or distracted?
 3. How can you begin practicing deeper listening when reading scripture?
 4. What might change in your life if you truly lived as someone who hears and understands?
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THINK ENGAGE *(Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)*

1. Who around you might need help clearing out "weeds" of distraction or fear?
 2. What specific steps can you take this week to be more attentive to Jesus' voice?
 3. Is there someone in your circle you can pray over or walk alongside in their spiritual growth?
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THINK KINGDOM *(Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)*

1. How does Jesus' use of hidden truths in ordinary stories challenge the way we talk about our faith?
2. In what ways does understanding and living out the parable of the sower help us reflect Christ in a world full of distractions?