



MORE THAN A STORY: *"Be Open To Receive It"*

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Introduction

Jesus often taught through parables—simple, relatable stories that revealed profound spiritual truths. In Matthew 13, Jesus shares the Parable of the Sower, illustrating how people respond differently to God's Word. The condition of the soil represents the condition of our hearts. This week, we'll discuss how God is speaking to us, what obstacles may be preventing us from receiving His truth, and what it looks like to cultivate a heart that produces spiritual fruit.

Discussion Questions

Read Together Matthew 13:1-23

1. God Has Something for You

The sermon emphasized that Jesus shared His message openly because God's truth is for everyone, not just a select few.

- What stands out to you about the fact that Jesus taught large crowds while still speaking personally to individuals?

- Why do you think God wants us to understand His Kingdom?

- Have you experienced a time when God spoke to you through Scripture, a message, or another person?

2. Obstacles Standing in the Way

Jesus explained that different soils represent different responses to God's Word. Obstacles can prevent us from receiving what God wants to do in our lives.

An Unwilling Heart

- What causes people to become resistant or closed off to God?

- How can we pray for people whose hearts seem hardened toward God?

Challenging Circumstances

- Have difficult experiences ever made it harder for you to trust God?

- Why do disappointment and suffering sometimes threaten our faith?

- How have you seen God remain faithful during difficult seasons?

Lies and Distractions

- What are some common lies that people believe about themselves, God, or their future?

- Why can lies become more convincing the longer we hold onto them?

3. There Is a Choice to Be Made

The good news of God's Kingdom requires a response. Jesus teaches that fruitful soil represents those who hear, understand, and respond to God's Word.

- What does it mean to be "open" to what God wants to say to you?

- Is there an area of your life where God may be inviting you to trust Him more deeply?

- What choices can you make this week to cultivate fertile soil in your heart?

Memory Verse

"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!"

Matthew 13:23 (NLT)