

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
The Parable of the Hearers
June 20, 2021
Fifth Reformed Church
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The Sower and the Seed

- This is the _____ parable in the _____ Gospel in the New Testament.
- A parable is a _____ that illustrates a spiritual truth.
- The sower is _____.
- The seed is the _____ of God.
- Jesus is the capital “W” _____ of God.
- The Bible is the lower case “w” _____ of God.
- Hebrews 1:3 / 2 Timothy 3:16
- “We know the Word of God in person only in and through the written word of God” (Shirley Guthrie, Christian Doctrine, p.63).

Hearing the Word

- The path refers to a _____ heart that is unfruitful because its orientation is wrong.
- The rocky soil refers to a _____ heart that hears God’s word but never develops deep roots of faith.
- The thorny soil refers to a _____ heart that hears God’s word but is distracted by other interests and concerns.
- The good soil refers to an _____ heart that hears God’s word for what it really is.

The Simplicity of Spiritual Fruitfulness

- John 15:16
- Seed in, _____ out!
- The simple truth is that our only part is to _____ _____ for the seed that is the Word of God.
- Is your intake of scripture commensurate with what you profess to believe about Jesus?
- Is your pursuit of Jesus commensurate with what you profess to believe about Him?

Reflection Questions

1. The Belgic Confession states that we believe the scriptures to be God’s word “not so much because the church receives and approves them as such but above all because the Holy Spirit testifies in our hearts that they are from God.” When did you first hear this spiritual testimony in your heart confirming the Bible as the word of God?
2. Jesus describes four heart conditions of those who hear the word of God: hard, shallow, distracted, and open. Looking back on your life, when do you feel you were most open to God’s word? Taking a snapshot of your life right now, how would you describe your “hearing” posture?
3. Describe one thing you might do over the next month to cultivate a heart of openness toward God’s word.
4. How was God getting your attention today?
5. What is God saying to you?
6. What are you going to do about it?