

LESSON 16

LISTEN

The Call to Hear and Obey | [Matthew 13:1-23](#)

OPENING QUESTIONS: OUR TEXT IN CONTEXT

What was the situation in the life and ministry of Jesus and his disciples when Jesus told the Parable of the Sower.

(Hints: Matthew 13:2; Luke 8:4; Mark 2:7; 3:13-19, 31-35; 4:1; 6:1-6. John 6:60-66)

THINKING QUESTIONS: INTERPRETING THE TEXT

1. Try to unpack the images in the parable that bear upon interpretation. For example, agricultural methods and soil conditions. Consider Jeremiah 4:3-4 and Ecclesiastes 11:6.

2. Parables compare. What is being compared in this parable?

The sower is compared to _____.

The seed is compared to _____.

The soil is compared to _____.

The fate of the seed is compared to _____.

3. This is the only parable that begins and ends with the word "Listen!" (Mark 4:3, 9). Jesus' interpretation of the parable also begins with the word, "Listen" (translated "Hear") in Matthew 13:18.

The word "listen / hear" appears 18 times in the three biblical versions of this parable, inclusive of Jesus' interpretation. What conclusions do you draw from this?

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

The Parable of the Sower compares the preaching of the kingdom to the sowing of seed. The condition of the soil determines the outcome. Likewise, the condition of our hearts determines the effect of the Gospel in our life and community.

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to this passage's sermon before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: OBEYING THE WORD

1. What does the Parable of the Sower mean to you and your contemporaries today? Apply its meanings to your life, church, and community.

2. The four types of soil in the parable reflect four different ways of hearing and responding to the Gospel.

Please review these four kinds of responses. Without passing judgment on anyone, give examples, if you can, of each kind of response as you have observed it among your contemporaries today.

3. Put yourself in the place of novice disciples and apostles of Jesus facing different kinds of responses to the Gospel. What encouragement do you draw from the Parable of the Sower?

4. Soil cannot clear itself of rocks and thorns. But we alone are responsible for the condition of our hearts. By grace and the power of the Spirit, we can *break up our fallow ground* and cleanse ourselves of all that hinders our spiritual growth.

Please spend a few quiet moments in self-examination. Search your heart in light of the Parable of the Sower and Hebrews 3:7-15.

Any thoughts to share with your group?