

## Sermon Notes for June 29th 2025

Series: “Doing Things Jesus’s Way”

Message: “Testing the Soil of Our Hearts”

Sermon Text: **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**; Old Testament Text: **Isaiah 55:8-11**; New Testament Text: **1 Timothy 4:1-5**. Read **Matthew 22:1-14 (below)** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23:** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear.” “Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.”

1. What did Jesus do to escape the crush of the crowd?
2. Who is the main character in Christ’s parable & what is he doing?
3. Why does Jesus speak in parables? (Read **Matthew 13:13-17**.)

What has happened to most of the people’s hearts?

What has happened to most of the people’s eyes and ears?

4. What four different things happened to the seed?
5. What did the seed that was devoured by the birds represent on the symbolic level?

6. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown on rocky ground represent?

How is the word initially received at this level?

Why doesn't this word last?

7. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown among thorns represent?

8. What does the good soil represent on the symbolic level?

9. How would you describe the soil of your heart?

10. What will you remember most from this lesson?