



THE KING & HIS KINGDOM

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Having a Heart that Hears

Matthew 13:1–23

So how do you know if Christ's Word has truly taken root in your heart?

Christ sows His gospel into our hearts to produce the fruit of His Kingdom, but we must welcome His Word deeply and persevere in faith.

Matthew 13

1 On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore.

Matthew 13

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying, “Consider the sower who went out to sow. 4 As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn’t have much soil, and it grew up quickly since the soil wasn’t deep. 6 But when the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away.

Matthew 13

7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it. 8 Still other seed fell on good ground and produced fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown.

9 Let anyone who has ears listen.”

“Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

--Deuteronomy 6:4

“Listen, my people, and I will admonish you.

Israel, if you would only listen to me!”

--Psalm 81:8

Matthew 13

10 Then the disciples came up and asked him, “Why are you speaking to them in parables?”

11 He answered, “Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them. 12 For whoever has, more will be given to him, and he will have more than enough; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Matthew 13

13 That is why I speak to them in parables, because looking they do not see, and hearing they do not listen or understand. 14

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

You will listen and listen,
but never understand;
you will look and look,
but never perceive.

Matthew 13

15 For this people's heart has grown callous;
their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes;
otherwise they might see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears, and
understand with their hearts,
and turn back—
and I would heal them.,

Matthew 13

16 “Blessed are your eyes because they do see, and your ears because they do hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see the things you see but didn’t see them, to hear the things you hear but didn’t hear them.

“The same sun that melts wax hardens clay.

And the same gospel which melts some persons to repentance
hardens others in their sins.”

-- Charles Spurgeon

Matthew 13

18 “So listen to the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn’t understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one sown along the path.

Matthew 13

20 And the one sown on rocky ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy.

21 But he has no root and is short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will change hearts and make them receptive to receive the gospel.

- * Hearts that are unreceptive: pray the Spirit would break in
- * Hearts lacking perseverance: pray for the grace of endurance
- * Hearts divided in allegiance: pray Jesus would be first place

Matthew 13

23 But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown.”

The deeper the Word takes root, the more you will bear its fruit.

*Listen carefully: allow the Spirit to till your heart

*Listen responsively: trials will test the strength of your roots

*Listen fruitfully: fruitful hearing will lead to fruitful doing.