



Mt Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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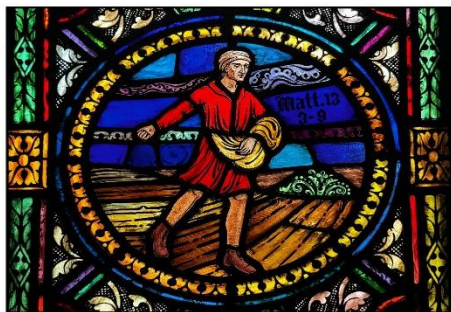
Making and Growing Followers of Jesus

July 19, 2026

‘The good ground represents the heart of a man who listens to the message and understands it and goes out and brings thirty, sixty, or even a hundred others into the Kingdom.’ (TLB Translation)

Dear Church Family and Friends,

This Sunday we will study two stained-glass windows in our sanctuary that complement each other: ‘The Sower’ and ‘The Reaper’. Without reading the verses that are painted on the stained glass, our first thought is probably that the man in the stained-glass is God, spreading the message of His Kingdom in the world. In the second panel, it seems like it is also God who is gathering in the people of His Kingdom.



But then, as we read the scripture passages painted on each of the windows, the analogies become less clear and the spiritual meaning behind Jesus’ stories takes a bit more reflection to uncover. I guess that is the purpose behind Jesus’ parables, after all!

I personally find that it’s really easy to get lost in the maze of different metaphors in both panels, so I invite you to discern with me how you and I best fit into these stories. So, just who does that person in the red tunic in the stained glass represent? Is it God? Is it Jesus? Is it a Disciple? Is it you and me? Let’s see what we unravel by Sunday!

As you and I continue to reflect on these texts before worship this Sunday, we should take care not to get lost in the metaphors and focus on the main lessons they teach. At their core, these two stories are about how Jesus hopes his disciples will grow and act.

In one, Jesus encourages everyone to make sure the ‘soil’ of their hearts is receptive to growing the Kingdom of God. In the second panel, Jesus wants his disciples, who *do* have God’s Kingdom growing in their hearts, to go out and share it so that other Kingdom ‘fields’ will grow.

I look forward to worshiping with you on Sunday as we remember again how God has blessed us with His gift of faith and be encouraged in our journey to be ‘Disciples who make Disciples’.

Grateful to be a disciple with you,

Pastor Cinda

