

In preparation for July 12, 2026: Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - Cultivating our Faith

Verse for reflection: “But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

Matthew 13:1-23 (Verses 8-9)



Adults -

1. In the beginning of this parable, Jesus is teaching us about understanding our hearts in terms of types of soil. A path-like heart may have parts that feel trampled, numb or unreceptive to God’s word. A rocky heart may lack depth. A thorny heart may worry and choke your spiritual growth. A heart in good soil is receptive to God. Where is your heart at today? Which soil best describes you right now? How can you continue to grow your seed in the good soil of Christ?

2. Jesus also speaks to the disciples about why he talks in parables. Parables reveal the Kingdom to those who want it, conceal the truth from the hard-hearted and invite people into self-discovery. Which one is he inviting you to self-discover right now in your life? Why?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Fear, spiritual numbness, resistance to hard truths, not understanding God’s intent.

Teens -

1. If your life was a garden, what do you think it would look like right now? What are some things in your life that are “growing” (good or bad)?

2. Why do you think Jesus uses something as simple as seeds and soil to explain faith? If you’re being honest, which soil do you relate to most right now? Do you think people stay the same “soil,” or can they change over time?

3. Why do you think it’s easy to hear God’s Word but not really understand it? Do you think God ever stops planting seeds in us? Why is that important?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: God’s Word never really sinks in because it gets crowded out immediately by all the noise and distraction in our lives.

Children -

1. Parables are stories that teach a lesson. What lesson do you think Jesus wanted us to learn? Why do you think Jesus taught in parables?

2. Have you ever been with a person who refused to listen to or accept some “good news” because of their stubbornness?

3. Have you ever experienced something so special that you know it was a blessing from God? What was it? Have you shared what happened with your family or friends?

4. What kind of soil would you say you are? How can you become the “rich soil” Jesus was talking about in the parable?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not taking time to grow in your faith. Spiritual laziness.