

Go and Bear Fruit

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – September 23, 2018

Matt 13:1-9, 18-23 (Parable of the Sower)

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 He who has ears, let him hear." 10-17... 18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

What is the "message about the kingdom"?

- THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST
(GOD IS LOVE)

John 15:16-17, 12

16 "... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last... 17 This is my command: Love each other." 12 ...
Love each other as I have loved you.

What are the enemies of good soil?

1. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

Matt 13:19

"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path."

2. TROUBLE & PERSECUTION

Matt 13:20-21

"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away."

3. WORRY & DECEITFULNESS OF WEALTH

Matt 13:22

"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."

How do we obtain good soil?

- LOVE GOD - Worship Him, Study His Word, Talk to Him (and listen)
- LOVE PEOPLE - Families, Co-workers, Strangers
- OFFER CHRIST - Serve Him, Represent Him well