



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: Matthew 13:3-23 "The Kingdom is like a Farmer Scattering Seed"

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together.

When looking back at your life, what advice, wisdom, teaching do you wish you would have listened to sooner? Why didn't you listen and learn?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

Of the four soils that Jesus highlights, which one do you think best explains people's resistance to hearing and responding to Jesus becoming King in their lives?

If the Kingdom of God means that Jesus is King over the "dome"/territory of your life. What meaning does this parable have for us?

In verses 12-16 Jesus gives us the principle of receptivity. The more we respond to His message, the more understanding we are given. The more resistant we are, the less we understand. How ought this principle shape following Jesus, to being His disciple?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Matthew 13:3-23]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What audience is in the crowds that Jesus is teaching? Why does this matter to how we interpret this parable?

The first story that Jesus told His audience was about what? (13:3)

Into what various places did the seed fall? (13:4-5)

Which seed ended up sprouting and bearing fruit? Why? (13:8)

To whom did Jesus direct His story about the four soils? (13:9)

How did the disciples respond to the Parable of the Four Soils? (13:10)

How did Jesus defend His use of parables? (13:11-13)

Why was the majority's inability or unwillingness to understand Christ's message significant? (13:14-15)

Why did Jesus say the disciples were blessed? (13:16-17)

Whom did Jesus liken to seed along the path? Why? (13:19)

According to Christ, who is like the seed that is scattered on rocky soil? Why? (13:20-21)

What kind of people were compared to seed scattered among the thorns? Why? (13:22)

What and who is fruitful seed a picture? How? (13:23)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How do stories and illustrations help us to understand more clearly the message of the Bible?

Is the point of the story to be fruitful soil? How do we explain when our soil looks hard, rocky or thorny?

What kind of soil would you say you are at this point in your life?

What are some thorns, that tend to choke out the fruitfulness of Jesus in our lives?

What circumstances have a tendency to scorch your faith and cause it to wither?

How could you listen more faithfully and intently to the voice of God?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?