



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

July 15-17, 2023

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 Plant Seeds of God's Word.

Verses 1-3: Jesus had a busy day. He was confronted by the Pharisees who showed more and more that their hearts were hard or hardening. He warned and reached out to them from God's Word. He healed a man with a shriveled hand, cast out a demon from another, and predicted his death and resurrection. He exited the house and continued teaching the crowd that had been following him that day. He taught them in parables.

A parable is an _____ story with a _____ meaning.

This one will show us what happens when _____ is shared with people.

Verses 4-8: What happened to the seed that fell:
On the path?

On the rocky soil?

In the weeds?

On the good soil?

Verse 9: God alone has given us ears to hear and hearts to believe and made it so the Gospel is preached to us. "He who has ears, let them hear."
Who is the Good news about Jesus for?

This phrase helps us interpret the parable. This is about all of us hearing and listening to God's Word.

Verse 18: Jesus wants them to hear the parable, to understand it and take it to heart. Jesus gave them ears to hear. The Savior of the world was speaking to them. The Savior of the world is speaking to you. What grace! What knowledge and understanding! How will we listen?

Verse 19: What are ways the devil tries to take away the message of God's Word from people?

He discredits the _____

He discredits the _____

He discredits the _____

What warning is here for you and me as well?

Verse 20-21: New and Old Christians don't like to hear that following Jesus brings hardship and persecution. Jesus said, "If anyone comes after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16). Why is it tempting for new Christians to fade away from God's Word and church when they are made fun of for believing God's Word?

When they realize it takes work to prioritize God in their lives?

When they try to make unpopular, but godly changes in their lives?

Verses 22: Jesus brings us life now and eternally, and while he certainly provides our every need, we also know we still have trials and tribulations. Where will the Christian find true riches and contentment?

Why is chasing after wealth and the love of money dangerous for the Christian?

What might this look like in the life of someone falling away from the kingdom?

Verse 23: How does hearing the Word, trusting in Jesus for our forgiveness and eternal life, and living according to his commands produce a harvest?

What are ways we plant the seed of God's Word?