



Elevation - Sunday 10:45 am

January 11, 2009
Pastor Brent Dedmon

The Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

“How is Your Hearing?”

The condition of our hearts determines what God’s truth produces in our lives (vv. 1-9).

PARABLE	MEANING
The Sower	Originally Jesus, but anyone who spreads the message of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:19)
The Seed	The message of the Kingdom/Word of God (Luke 8:11)
The Soils	The hearts of men and women (Luke 8:12, 15)

The Four Conditions of the Heart (vv. 18-23)

- ❖ **The hard-hearted** (vs. 19)
 - Proud and angry (Proverbs 23:9)
 - Blind (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

- ❖ **The shallow-hearted** (vv. 20-21)
 - Have no foundation (Matthew 7:26-27)
 - Kid themselves (James 1:22-23)

- ❖ **The double-hearted** (vs. 22)
 - Serve two masters (Matthew 6:24)
 - Preoccupied and distracted (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

- ❖ **The open-hearted** (vs. 23)
 - Soft and fleshy (Ezekiel 36:26)
 - Fruitful (Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 1:3)

So, how is your hearing?

RESPONSE:

We want to be people with receptive hearts to God and His Word so that we can lead vibrant and fruitful lives for Him. Reflect on the condition of your heart and how you want God's Word to impact you this next year. Choose a passage from Scripture that you want to "take root" in your life (there are just some ideas below). As you feel led, approach one of our response stations, take a seed marker, write a Bible passage on it and let it be a reminder to you of the power of God's Word in your heart.

- ❖ The Love of God - Romans 8:37-39
- ❖ The Greatness of God - Psalm 145:1-9
- ❖ God's Guidance - Isaiah 42:16
- ❖ God is our Help - Psalm 18:2
- ❖ The Supremacy of Christ - Philippians 2:3-11
- ❖ Life in the Spirit - Romans 8:9-17
- ❖ The Christian Call - Ephesians 2:8-10
- ❖ Life of Fruitfulness - John 15:1-10
- ❖ Life of Courage - Joshua 1:9
- ❖ Life of Humility - 1 Peter 5:6
- ❖ Life of Hope - Psalm 42:11
- ❖ Putting on the New Self - Colossians 3:12-17

COMMUNION

Almost every Sunday we will offer Communion at the stations. We want you to take communion looking to the hope we have in God's comfort as a result of our salvation through Jesus Christ. Remember His death through the bread and the cup.

GIVING

In our Elevation services, we want to encourage you and your family to bring your offering prayerfully as your gift in worship to God, to the buckets located at the stations. We also offer another way to give, at each of the back doors you will find offering drop-boxes available to you, if you miss your opportunity to give at the stations.

PRAYER

After the message, there will be prayer counselors in "Prayer Booth" on the far right side of the room to pray for any situation you are facing or any need you may have. The world is not a perfect place, and we all have struggles. Take a step of faith and make your requests known. Let someone pray with you this morning.



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