

# Matthew 13

- 3<sup>rd</sup> major sermon in Matthew
- Collection of parables focused on the dynamics of the Kingdom of God in the present age
- **Parable** – everyday story taken from real life that communicates spiritual truth; often has surprise/twist
- **Parables in Ch 13 Answering:**
  - If Jesus is the Messiah, then why is He being rejected?
  - Why isn't the Kingdom Jesus is establishing making more of an impact?

## MATTHEW 13:1-23



# Parable of the Sower

- **Seed** – Gospel; Good News about Jesus and His Kingdom
- **Sower** – one scattering seed; sharers of the Gospel
- **Soil** – recipients of the seed; hearers of the Gospel
- **Note** – as followers of Jesus we are both sower and soil
  - we are called to share Good News of Jesus with others
  - The Holy Spirit is constantly leading us into more truth about Jesus and His Kingdom

**MATTHEW**  
**13:1-23**



# Unproductive Soil

- **Hard** – resistant to the Gospel; never accepts; no ‘plant’ grows
- **Ground can be softened**
  - **Through rain** – ask the Holy Spirit to keep your heart open to His leading
  - **With a plow** – circumstances can ‘break’ us causing us to be more open to the Holy Spirit

**MATTHEW**  
**13:1-23**



# Unproductive Soil

## Initial acceptance, but no fruit

- **Rocky** – shallow; roots of plant not deep enough to withstand:
  - **Trouble** - squeezing
  - **Persecution** – harassment
  - **For us** – disappointment over loss

## Is Jesus worth suffering for?

- C.S. Lewis: Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy's (God's) will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.

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# Unproductive Soil

Initial acceptance, but no fruit

**Weedy** – crowded; plant choked out

- **Worries of this life** – usually people/circumstances we care about but can't control
- Do not worry – worry is counterproductive; practice trust
- **Deceitfulness of wealth** – for us the great lie is that money is not dangerous to our souls
- Hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom - love of money is root of all kinds of evil; practice generosity

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