

# PARABLES

## J E S U S   T H E   S T O R Y T E L L E R

Sunday, June 5, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

### Part 2 | **Soil Judging** Matthew 13:1-23

Parable =  
A story intended to illustrate and teach.

Jesus taught with parables to **CONCEAL** truth from some (v. 12-15)

those “outside” Matthew 12:46; Mark 4:11; Romans 1:24, 26, 28

*“There are only two kinds of people in the end:  
those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’  
and those to whom God says... ‘Thy will be done.’”*  
– C.S. Lewis

and **REVEAL** truth to others, (v. 11, 16-17)

those “inside” Ephesians 1:7-10; Romans 16:25-27; Romans 5:8; Romans 11:33-36

so **TEND THE SOIL** of your heart! (v. 18-23)

keep spreading seed 1 Corinthians 3:7

*How’s the soil of **your** heart these days?*

soil 1 = **A HARD PATH?**

soil 2 = **ROCKY GROUND?**

soil 3 = **CHOKING IN THE WEEDS?**

soil 4 = **GOOD SOIL**



**We're Glad You're Here Today!**  
Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you!  
**You can also access today's bulletin** using the same QR or link.





# Food for Thought...

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

The parable of the sower is Jesus' most important parable because it provides more clues than any other parable as to the nature of parables and how they should be interpreted. The parable is followed by Christ's own interpretation and discussion of its contents. It is an excellent place to begin our study of the parables.

### Read Matthew 13:1–23.

1. Imagine yourself as a farmer or a farmer's child at the time of Jesus listening to this story with the rest of the crowd. What immediate responses might you have to Jesus' use of images of seeds and soil?
2. In **verse 10** the disciples ask Jesus, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" How would you summarize his answer (**v. 11–16**)?
3. How do parables help Jesus' followers understand his kingdom but hinder the understanding of those who don't follow him closely (**v. 12–17**)?
4. In **verses 18–23** Jesus explains the meaning of this parable to his disciples. The seed is the message of the kingdom (v. 19). Who is the farmer, and who is the soil?
5. Satanic "birds" destroyed the value of God's word for the first group of people. Why? What did these hearers lack (**v. 19**)?
6. What can we do to help people understand God's message?

7. **Verses 20–21** describe the kind of person referred to as stony or rocky soil. What examples have you seen of people who respond this way?

8. How can we avoid this in our own lives and discourage it in the lives of others?

9. What kind of person does the third type of soil describe (**v. 22**)?

10. How can we avoid being choked by the weeds and thorns Jesus mentions (**v. 23**)?

11. Which of the four kinds of soil do you most identify with? Explain.

12. What are some practical examples of how we can become "good soil" (**v. 23**)?

Thank God for the ways he has opened your heart and mind to his message of love. Invite him to continue to work the soil of your life and to help you be more and more receptive to his love.

### Now or Later

In a time of quiet ask God to show you places in your heart and mind where he wants to till, soften and prepare you to hear his Word. Write a prayer in response to what you sense God is showing you.

This week's study is from John White, *Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told: 12 Studies for Individuals or Groups, A LifeGuide Bible Study* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect: An Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 1999), 9–11.



## Life Groups Return In the Fall!

Each fall and spring people from Wawasee Bible meet regularly in small groups to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups and they meet in various homes and on campus. If you really want to connect and grow, you should get in a Life Group! — *Most groups take a break for the summer, so if you're interested, look for sign-ups in August or let us know on the digital Connect Card at [wawasee.today](http://wawasee.today) or stop by the Connect Desk. Look for other opportunities to connect outside of Life Groups throughout the summer.*

## Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find for Matthew 13:44-52 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>1</sup> That **same** day Jesus went out of the **house** and sat **beside** the sea. <sup>2</sup> And **great crowds gathered** about him, so that he got into a **boat** and sat down. And the **whole crowd stood** on the **beach**. <sup>3</sup> And he **told** them **many things** in **parables**, saying: "A **sower went** out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, **some seeds fell** along the **path**, and the **birds came** and **devoured** them. <sup>5</sup> **Other seeds fell** on **rocky ground**, where they did not have much **soil**, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of **soil**, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> **Other seeds fell** among **thorns**, and the **thorns** grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> **Other seeds fell** on good **soil** and produced grain, **some** a hundredfold, **some** sixty, **some** thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

S O W E R S O M E S D J  
 T L H B I R D S E E D S  
 O S O B G R E A T P P A  
 O A L R O C K Y S D A G  
 D M E A B E S I D E R R  
 I E C F E L L N C V A O  
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