



“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:1-9-NIV)

Prayer: Almighty God, I thank You for planting in me the seed of Your Word. By Your Holy Spirit help me to continue to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits of faith and hope and love; through Your Son Jesus Christ my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



The Lord's Supper Today – If you are not a member of St. John’s nor in fellowship with us by being a member at one of our fellow *WELS* or *ELS* congregations we ask that you please not come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper until after completing a Bible Instruction course from our Pastor.

Scripture teaches that in the Lord’s Supper the True Body and True Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is Really Present in / with and under the bread and wine. In First Corinthians 11:17-34 we are warned that those who do not believe in the *Real Presence* will receive this Sacrament to their Judgment rather than their blessing. The Lord’s Supper is given for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26-29). It is not to be taken by anyone who willfully continues to live a sinful lifestyle (Romans 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:26-27). It is also an expression of Christian unity (Romans 15:5; Romans 16:17-18; Acts 2:44), and we are able to share Holy Communion only with those who are in our fellowship. If you are interested in learning more about the Lord’s Supper please be sure to speak to our Pastor.

Dear Guests! – Welcome to St. John’s! It is an honor and joy that you were able to come and join together with us in public worship of our Lord. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail as noted on the back cover.

Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 221 / TLH 16** sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Isaiah 55:6-11

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 65 (C.W. pg. 89 – Read Responsively)

M: Praise awaits You O God, You call forth songs of joy.

C: You care for the land and water it; You soften it with showers and bless its crops.

M: The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain.

C: You crown the year with Your bounty, and Your carts overflow with abundance.

M: The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

C: The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain, they shout for joy and sing.

M: This Is The Word Of The Lord.

Second Lesson – Romans 8:18-25

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 13:1-11; 18-23

Nicene Creed by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 293 / TLH 283** sung by the Congregation

Sermon Text: Matthew 13:1-9

Sermon Theme: Let Scripture Interpret Scripture.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord's Prayer

Communion Liturgy (Liturgy - pg. 21)

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ's Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 310 vss. 1 & 11-15 / TLH 315** sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 322 / TLH 46** sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 13:1-9 (See Also Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:1-15)

Vs. 1 - That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

Vs. 2 - Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

Vs. 3 - Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.

Vs. 4 - As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Vs. 5 - Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

Vs. 6 - But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Vs. 7 - Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

Vs. 8 - Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Vs. 9 - He who has ears, let him hear.”

GREETING: Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal. 5:24-25)

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What does this parable mean?

Have you ever read a portion of Scripture, only to ask yourself; “What does this mean?”

It sounds like Catechism class.

The First Commandment: Thou shalt have no other gods. **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

As we finish reading this parable of the Sower and the seed, it is important to acknowledge that in and of ourselves we cannot and do not know what this parable means.

But God has given us the meaning to this parable. In this particular portion of Scripture, all we need to do is continue to read on and then as we reach verse 18 of this same chapter of Matthew where The Lord Jesus says:

Vs. 18 - “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: **Vs. 19** - When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, **the evil** one comes and **snatches away** what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the **path**.

“The Message about the Kingdom” is the Word of God, and so the Seed which is sown is God’s Word.

The Sower of the seed is anyone who proclaims the Word of God.

In this particular instance, it is Jesus Who is the “Sower”, as He is sitting in a boat on the lake. (Sea of Galilee / Tiberias).

Some of the seed / The Word, falls on the hard path.

Picture the walking paths through the fields at the time of Jesus.

The hard path is a picture of those people who hear the Word of God, but Satan comes and snatches it away. The Word of God does not even begin to grow.

The heart is hard. We know from Scripture that by nature we reject the Word of God and are hostile (Rom. 8:7) to God. By nature, the human heart is a heart of stone (Ezekiel 11:19).

The seed that falls upon the rocky places is explained in vss. 20-21.

Vs. 20 - The one who received the seed that fell on **rocky places** is the man who **hears the word** and at once receives it with joy. **Vs. 21** - But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes **because of the word**, he quickly falls away.

This is the person who hears the Word of God and believes the forgiveness of sins in Christ Jesus and they are all excited to be saved! But their faith is shallow.

When troubles come, they quickly fall away from Christ Jesus as their One and Only Savior from Sin, death, and the devil.

It is important to note that the trouble or persecution spoken of is: “Because of The Word of God”.

In other words, they are made fun of because they are a believer.

Example: “You are going to go to church instead of the BIG game! Boy, aren’t you a goody two shoes”?

They undergo hardship because they obey the Word of the Lord. Some people may lose their job or lose income because they obey the word of the Lord.

The Seed that falls among the thorns is explained in verse 21.

Vs. 22 - The one who received the seed that fell among the **thorns** is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth **choke it**, making it unfruitful.

This is the person who hears the Word of God, but become so preoccupied with things of this World, that their faith in Jesus is choked out.

This person did not really value what God does and continues to give them.

As we look at these three different soils, it is easy to realize that even believers who are faithful can fall into any one of these categories at any given time.

In First Corinthians 10:12 the Apostle Paul writes: *“So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you do not fall.”*

These three soils that the Lord Jesus gives can and do overlap with the same person.

Jesus then explains the fourth soil. The Good Soil”.

Vs. 23 - But the one who received the seed that fell on **good soil** is the man who hears the word and understands it. He **produces a crop**, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

This is the believer who remains faithful to Jesus all the days of their lives and produces fruits of faith in their daily life.

In addition to obeying the 10 Commandments, a fruit of faith can also be proclaiming the Word of God to others as you tell 100 – 60 – 30 more people about Jesus their Savior, and are brought to faith by the Power of the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

It is not just a matter of obeying the 10 Commandments, but also proclaiming the Good News of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We also support the proclamation of the Word of God, when as believers we gathered together with other believers encouraging them and stand up for them.

It is important to keep in mind that those who hear the Word of God and remain faithful to the Lord Jesus is not because they are so good, or better than other people.

As we “Let Scripture Interpret Scripture” we learn from other parts of Scripture that we are by nature dead in our trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1-10), and that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:22-24), and all our righteous acts are as filthy rags (Isa. 64:6-7). Our Salvation is God’s gift to us (Romans 6:23).

Rather, the seed that falls on the “good” soil are those who by God’s grace remain faithful to God and are made right / made good in God’s eyes by the righteousness of Jesus which covers us through faith in Christ Alone.

So now the question where the rubber hits the road: “Which type of soil are you?”

As you look at the people around you, when you see those who seem to be the hard path, do not write them off, rather keep on giving them the Word of God.

At the same time, keep in mind that Jesus tells us not to cast pearls to the swine. (Matthew 7:6)

Do you see a fellow believer who is being persecuted because of the Word of God and their faith in Jesus is in danger of drying up and withering away?

Encourage them, and offer them guidance in the Word of God.

Do you see a fellow Christian who is being pulled away from God by the worries of this world and earthly wealth? – Pray for them and with them and encourage them to join together with other believers in Joint Public Worship and to take time for personal Bible reading and study.

Keep on studying the Word of God, Let Scripture Interpret Scripture, and tell others that their sins are forgiven by the Blood of Jesus our Risen Savior, and heaven is their home. AMEN

THEME: Let Scripture Interpret Scripture.