

Applying the Word (Matthew 13:1-23)

The Book of Life – Part 3
Life Church St. Louis – June 30, 2013
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NIV) This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

James 1:21-22 (NIV) Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Matthew 13:3-9 (NIV) 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."

1. God reveals _____

Matthew 13:11 (NIV) He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

A. _____ leads to more

Matthew 13:12a, 16 (NIV) Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. ... But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

B. _____ of understanding leads to less

Matthew 13:12b-13 (NIV) Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

C. _____ hearts resist God

Matthew 13:15 (NIV) For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

2. _____ your heart for the Word

Matthew 13:18 (NIV) "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

A. _____ accept the Word

Matthew 13:19 (NIV) 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.

B. _____ your commitment to the Word

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV) 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. 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.

C. _____ any idols in your life

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) 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.

D. _____ in obedience to the Word

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) 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."

Applying the Word (Matthew 13:1-23) – Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that younger adults have less interest and understanding of the Bible than older adults? How could this change?

What are the consequences of obeying or disobeying God's Word (Deuteronomy 30:16-19)?

How can God's Word bring blessing to your life (James 1:21-22)?

How does Jesus' parable of the sower encourage sowers (Matthew 13:3-9)?

1. How would you explain what the phrase "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven" means (Matthew 13:11)?

1A. Why does understanding of God's Word lead to more understanding (Matthew 13:12, 16)?

1B. Why does God take away understanding from those who don't understand (Matthew 13:12-13)?

- 1C. Explain the spiritual state of the people described in Matthew 13:15 and how they got that way.
- 1D. How can you make sure that your heart does not become calloused to God's Word?
- 2A. What role does Satan play in a person's reception of God's Word (Matthew 13:19)? What kind of heart aids his work?
- 2B. Explain what kinds of "rocks" would make a person's commitment to God shallow (Matthew 13:20-21).
- 2C. What additional thorns (idols) can choke out God's Word in a person's life (Matthew 13:22)?
- 2D. Why must a person who truly understanding God's Word, obey it (Matthew 13:23, Matthew 12:50)?
- 2E. What excuses do people use to avoid obeying God's Word? How could you encourage others to follow God's Word?