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Devotion for October 15th, 2021

"And He told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 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, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who hears, let him hear.'"

- Matthew 13:3-9

I really like this parable that Jesus told here in the book of Matthew.

I like it because Jesus explained it afterward to His disciples and it is recorded in [Matthew 13:18-23](#). Jesus told us that the seeds are the word of the kingdom or the Word of God. He explained that all sorts of people hear the Word of God, but it doesn't continue within many. Jesus said the good soil is the person who hears the Word of God and understands it.

The Word of God can contain either Law or Gospel. After hearing the Law, it should be obvious to anyone that they have sinned; that their sin(s) condemn them to eternal destruction. There is no way around it - not a single one of us can save ourselves. We have all sinned.

Thank goodness that God's Word also gives us the Gospel. The Gospel tells us of what Jesus has done for us on the cross and on Easter morning. He saved us from our hopeless, sinful condition. Jesus defeated sin and death. Because of Him we have forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life.

So, who is the good soil? I think it is a person who looks at the cross and sees Jesus dying for the sin that the person himself has committed. He understands that Jesus suffered and died for his sin. He is humbled by this; but he is also lifted up when looking at the cross because he also understands that belief in Jesus on that cross is the only way for him to avoid eternal destruction. He has heard and understood. He is the good soil. He will go forward and share this message with others so that they might hear and understand also.

"He who has ears, let him hear!"

Let us pray. Lord, thank You for helping us understand that not everyone who hears Your Word will be the good soil. Forgive us for our slow understanding. Sometimes we need to hear things more than once to understand them. Give us patience as we share the good news that You won for us with others. Please guide our words by Your Holy Spirit as we talk to others about You. We ask this in Your name, Lord Jesus. Amen!

*In Christ Jesus,
Rev. John Kyle, Associate Pastor
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