

Sowing and Harvesting

Matthew 13:1-53

I. Prayer / Opening

When have you looked at a situation and asked, “Why doesn’t God do something about this?”

II. The Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)

A. What makes a difference in the outcome of the four plantings of seeds?

B. How is the parable a retelling of Jesus’ own ministry?

C. Focus on the disciples question in 13:10 and Jesus’ response 13:14-15 in particular and the quote from Isaiah.

1. Does God intend for people not hear and understand so he can judge them?

2. Did Jesus tell parables so that people would not understand, because if they did they would be saved – something he didn’t want to have happen?

D. When Jesus says “Whoever has ears, let them hear” in v. 9, what is he wanting from us?

E. What makes us spiritually blind and deaf to what God is doing in the world today?

F. In 18-23, Jesus does interpret this parable for them (he doesn’t always). Ponder which of the four reactions most closely resembles where you are.

G. What can we do to hear and understand better? Should we try? Do stones need to be moved? Thorns uprooted? How do we do that?

III. Wait (Matthew 13:24-43)

A. Weeds and Wheat

1. How *will* God’s justice and mercy be shown at the close of this age?

2. In dark Minnesota, what is evoked by v. 43 – “The righteous will shine like the sun”?

B. A Mustard Seed

C. Yeast

IV. Made to Startle (v. 44-53)

A. Jesus provoked reactions over who he is. How do we see that played out?

B. What basic truths about the kingdom are evident through this chapter?

V. Prayer