

## The Moral of the Story: The Sower

March 9-10

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Moral of the Story**
- Six weeks in the Parables of Jesus. Takes us to Resurrection Sunday!!
- What is a parable? Why did Jesus talk in parables?
  - o Explain spiritual things by using common experiences.
  - o Christian Winter, "Parables attract seekers who want to know, but they discourage those who aren't interested."
  - o Seekers vs Stiff Necked. Be a seeker! God wants you to find Him!!
- **The Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:1-9**
  - o Great thing about this parable is that Jesus interprets it!! **Matthew 13:18-23**
  - o Path (19): Those who reject the faith. Satan is involved in this!
    - Satan clouds people's minds. **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**
    - God even hides from some. **Matthew 13:10-13**
    - This is how **James 4:6** works. Must be important: **1 Peter 5:5**.
    - Don't shut your eyes. **Matthew 13:14-16** says you have a role too!
      - Instead, believe **Matthew 7:7-8!!** How do you open your eyes??
  - o Rocky Places (20-21): Shallow believers or shallow converts.
    - Understand the good news but don't understand that following Jesus is worth the sacrifice or the struggle. They are easily thrown off.
    - Weak altar calls can be a problem. Give your life to Jesus!!
    - Be an overcomer and take your place. It will be hard, but worth it!!
  - o Among Thorns (22): The great distracted masses of believers.
    - Understand who God is, but don't give God first priority.
    - We are the most distracted generation in history. We used to be bored!
    - "Stop Doing" list. Don't quit your life, prioritize your life!!
    - Parable of the Weeds re Rocky Places and Thorns. **Matthew 13:24-30**
      - Jesus knew there would be hypocrites in church!!
        - o Unless we are a truly remarkable church, some of us are in this category right now.
      - Thistles can turn into wheat! That is the Gospel!!
  - o Good Soil (23): Those who understand and make a difference in this life.
    - The point of the parable is to get us to this place!
      - All of us will face trying times and want to quit.
      - All of us have the opportunity to be greatly distracted.
      - Instead, let's put God first, overcome the trials, and make a difference for the Kingdom of God!!
  - o Who goes to heaven in this parable?
    - Christian culture would say categories 2-4.
    - That's not a risk I'm willing to take. **John 15:1-4**
    - Besides, I'd rather have BOTH abundant life and everlasting life!!
- Where are you at?
  - o Hard Path, Shallow Soil, Choked by weeds, or a weed yourself? Good Soil?
- Where do you want to be?
- How do you get there?
  - o The Gospel is true. **2 Corinthians 5:17-20**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!