

BREAKING THROUGH

Matt 13:3-9

A. Introduction

1. Facebook Posts interaction: More people respond and read Facebook posts that have a picture or a video. It draws them to your post instead of just scrolling past your sea of words.
2. People have a choice to be indifferent or be drawn in.
3. Jesus used parables to do the same thing!
4. And the people had a choice...to be spiritually drawn in or spiritually indifferent? Read Scripture: Matt 13:3-9

B. Parable of the Soils

1. The idea behind the word parable is “to throw alongside of.” It is a story thrown alongside the truth intended to teach. Parables have been called “earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.”
2. It’s a simple story about a farmer and sowing seeds
 - a) Seed is God’s Word, Sower is Jesus, Field is the world (13:37)
3. He who has ears to hear, let him hear: This was not a call for all to listen. Rather, it was a call for those who were spiritually sensitive to take special note. This was especially true in light of the next few verses, in which Jesus explained the purpose of parables.
 - a) Jesus explained that He used parables so that the hearts of those rejecting it would not be hardened further.
 - b) (Barclay) “The parable conceals truth from those who are either too lazy to think or too blinded by prejudice to see. It puts the responsibility fairly and squarely on the individual. It reveals truth to him who desires truth; it conceals truth from him who does not wish to see the truth.”
 - c) “Thus the parables spoke to the crowds do not simply convey information, nor mask it, but challenge the hearers.”
4. Two possible responses
 - a) **Drawn In** – Spiritual Breakthrough - eternity is in the balance
 - b) **Indifferent** – Spiritual Breakdown

C. Types of Soil

1. Path - The seed was eaten by the birds. It did not even take a root.
 - a) My Kingdom, Hard Heart, No God, no problem, **indifferent**

- b) Nothing produced
- 2. Rocky - The seed grew up quickly, as the soil was shallow. When the sun came up, it withered away, since it had no root.
 - a) My Kingdom, soft heart, God helps, still **indifferent**
 - b) Nothing produced
- 3. Thorns - seed grew, but the thorns also grew and choked the plant.
 - a) My Kingdom, God's kingdom is close 2nd to world,
 - b) Worry and wallet issue of life supersede KOG
 - c) **Still Indifferent:** to serving, reaching the lost, discipleship
 - d) Nothing produced, it's about my convenience
- 4. Good Soil "Reproducing" - The seed grew and produced 100, 60 or 30 times what was sown.
 - a) God's Kingdom; Drawn In, Eternal production

D. **Good News – Sowing Seed (Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36)**

- 1. God is not indifferent about you! Jesus is the expression of God's Love to us! His love led Him to the cross! *What will you do with God's Love? How will you respond?*
- 2. **Sowing Seed: Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36**
 - a) ***What will you do with God's Love? How will you respond?***
 - b) ***Will you be Indifferent or be drawn in?***
- 3. At the Name of Jesus, I am drawn in. He saved me, He bailed me out. He paid my debt. A weight was lifted. I cannot be indifferent!
- 4. **Read: Acts 2:37-39**
 - a) ***It's a great day to change your heart.***
 - b) ***What will you do with the love of God?***

E. **Application**

- 1. What is the Holy Spirit teaching you?
- 2. How can you apply this to your life?

"Breaking Through" Small Group Questions:

- 1. Read aloud Matt 13:3-9: What does this passage say about God's relationship to us?
- 2. Jesus explained that He used parables so that the hearts of those rejecting it would not be hardened further. What does that tell you about the heart of God?

3. In the story, Jesus implies that his teaching is like seeds. What do you think Jesus expects to happen in response to his teaching?
4. What will the different reactions to his teaching be?
5. What kind of Soil are you?
6. Has there been different times in your journey with Jesus that you represented different kinds of soil? Why?
7. What is choking the seed (Word of God) in you today?
8. Jesus ends the story by saying, "Listen, then, if you have ears." What do you think he means by this?