

# Foster City Campus – March 18, 2018



Checking Our Heart Condition - Matthew 13: 1-23; Galatians 5:22

Matthew 13: 1-23

1. Share with your group a great story or movie that taught you a valuable spiritual truth in a powerful way.
2. Read the Parable of the Sowers. (Vv. 1-9) Imagine you are on the beach hearing it for the first time. What questions would you have?
3. Read verses 10-17. What did Jesus offer to his disciples that he didn't offer the crowds? What was it about the crowd response to Jesus that brought his judgment on them? Why do you think Jesus chooses to teach in parables at this time in his ministry?
4. Read verses 18-23. What insights do these verses give us for a strategy for sowing the seed of God's Word with others? How are you a sower these days?
5. What key insights can we gain about the kingdom of God when we consider the 4 soil conditions (heart conditions) explained by Jesus? Hard... Shallow... Strangled... Good....
6. What does it look like for you to welcome God's Word into your heart immediately, deeply and exclusively?
7. According to this passage what is the most reliable evidence to believe anyone who claims to be a follower of Christ?
8. Read Galatians 5:22. Which of these Fruits of the Spirit are most prominent and least prominent in your life? Based on your current circumstances, what might God be wanting to teach you about growing these various fruits of the Spirit in your life?

9. Share with your group which prayer resonate the most with you. Why?
  - a. Lord, I pray for my heart to be softened
  - b. Lord, I pray for more spiritual depth in my time of testing
  - c. Lord, I pray for you to rearrange my priorities to align with yours
  - d. Lord, I pray for more sowing and more kingdom fruit in my my life.



The Parable of the Sower - Dominic Rivera  
Matthew 13:1-23

1. What is the intention of the farmer? What is the goal of planting seed?
2. Describe the first three circumstances of seed (v.4-7). How does each uniquely combat the intention of the farmer?
3. Describe a situation in which you worked to bring something good into existence but your actions were met with hindrances.
4. In light of the intention of the farmer and the purpose of the seed, what is the significance of the seed on good soil (v.8)?
5. Why does Jesus teach in parables (v.10-17)?
6. Think of a time when you used a parable to make a point. What are the benefits of using parables?
7. Who are the people depicted by the four seeds in the parable (v.19)? Describe each of the first three types of hearers (v.19-22).
8. What is characteristic of the fourth type of person that differentiates them from the other three?