

Sacred Space Truly Hear & Understand

The Gospel of Matthew Series (and John)

PREPARATION

- ¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
- ² But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.
- ³ **They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.** Psalm 1

ADORATION and GRATITUDE

- ²⁷ O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles?
O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?
- ²⁸ **Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding.**
- ²⁹ He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Isaiah 40

CONFESSION

- ²⁶ 'Go and say to this people: When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend.
- ²⁷ **For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'** Acts 28

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Matthew 13

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. ² A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³ He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. ⁴ As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. ⁷ Other seeds fell among

PRACTICE: IN SOLITUDE OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	How do I relate to this?
Respond	What is my next step of obedience?
Rest	Receive God's healing and renewal.

thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

¹⁸ "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. ²⁰ The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ²¹ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. ²² The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. ²³ The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

ANCHORING PRAYER *"I am listening to You Lord. Help me to understand"*

REVIEW OF THE HEART

- *What am I truly hearing and understanding from God's Word?*
- *Do I consider my spiritual environment to be shallow, rocky, thorny, or fertile?*

WISDOM

Ears to hear and eyes to see—both are gifts from the Lord. Proverbs 20:12

You see and recognize what is right but refuse to act on it.

You hear with your ears, but you don't really listen." Isaiah 42:20

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, others, and me.*

CLOSING PRAYER

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

SACRED SPACE EVERY DAY
Become still and quiet before God.
Be filled with the Holy Spirit.
Pray for the Sacred Space Community.
Minister from a listening heart.