



Sermon Notes: “The Wasteful Farmer”

Matthew 13:1-9

7.19.26

What is the Seed? The Gospel: The Good news that God sent His son, Jesus, to die for our sin.

Who is the Sower? Anyone who plants the seeds of the Gospel.

Unchanging:

- The Gospel always goes first.
 - Our posture toward the Gospel determines what happens when that seed lands, but our posture never determines whether the seed gets thrown in the first place.
- The seed never changes. The ground does.

Pursuing:

- Hearing is not the same as receiving.

So What?

The Sower is still sowing

1. Journal a couple of honest reactions to the story.
2. Are there names — people you love — who come to mind as you picture these four fields?
3. Pray for them this week.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion During the Week:

Life Group ICEBREAKER: Think about a time you invested significant time, money, or energy into something — and it went nowhere. What did that feel like? And looking back, do you think the investment was still worth making, even without the return?

REVIEW: Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? What was it and why did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 13:1-9

- The sermon opened with the image of a farmer seeding everything — the field, the gravel shoulder, the concrete edge of the road. Seed just flying everywhere. Any farmer watching would say that's wasteful, even reckless. But the sermon said this is exactly how Jesus describes God's generosity with the gospel — no soil survey first, no worthiness test, just seed going out to everyone. How does that image of reckless, indiscriminate generosity challenge or expand the way you think about who God is and how He operates?
 - The sermon said our posture toward the gospel determines what happens when the seed lands — but our posture never determines whether the seed gets thrown in the first place. Titus 3:5 says God saved us not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. The seed came to you before you were good soil. Where in your own story did the gospel show up before you were even close to ready for it? What does that say about the character of the Farmer?
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READ: 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 | Romans 10:1

- Paul says clearly: I planted, God gave the growth. It's not important who does the planting or the watering — what's important is that God makes the seed grow. The sermon said this is genuine relief for anyone who has shared the gospel with someone they love and seen nothing happen. Is there someone in your life right now — a kid, a parent, a friend, a spouse — where you've tried and tried and worn yourself down waiting for the harvest? How does Paul's framing here actually change the weight you're carrying about that person?
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DEPLOY:

- **Journal Your Honest Reaction.** The sermon's specific assignment for the week: sit with the parable and journal a few honest reactions — not a research paper, not "what did I learn," just honest. What surprised you? What bothered you? Where did you feel yourself pull back a little? If you related to one of the four fields more than the others, write down which one and why — no editing yourself, no making it sound more spiritual than it actually was. Come back to your group next week ready to share one honest thing the parable stirred up in you.
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Don't Forget:

- Chief Joseph Days is this Consider Signing up to help at Chief Joseph Days. Adults and Youth Needed. Sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk
 - Operation Christmas Child – Christmas in July is now happening! Take a look at the tree on the Welcome Desk
 - Consider signing up for the Life Group leader training. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome desk!
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Prayer:

Father, thank You for throwing seed onto ground that hadn't proven itself, onto hearts that weren't ready, onto people like us who had no business being good soil yet. Thank You that the seed came before we deserved it, and that Your mercy was never waiting for our worthiness. We confess that we haven't always thrown the seed with that same reckless generosity. We've surveyed the ground first. We've decided in advance who was ready and who wasn't. We've held back from people we love because we didn't know what to say, or we'd already tried, or we were afraid of what it would cost us. Forgive us for that. And Lord, we bring the names to You — the people on our lists who've heard the gospel but it hasn't taken root yet. The ones with packed-down hearts. The ones being strangled by the weeds of life. We don't bring them because we've figured out what You should do — we bring them because You're the only One who can actually do anything. Make us faithful to throw the seed. And make us desperate enough to pray like Paul prayed — with longing, not obligation. Break up the hard ground. Pull out the rocks. Clear the thorns. And let the harvest come in Your time, in Your way. The seed never changes. We trust the Farmer. In Jesus' name, Amen.