

Hidden in Plain Sight

Barriers

³ “And he told them many things in parable, saying, ‘Listen, a sower went out to sow, and ⁴ as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on the rocky ground where they did not have much soil and they sprang up quickly since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ Let anyone with ears listen.”

- **Matthew 13:3-9**

¹⁸ “Jesus says, ‘Hear, then, the parable of the sower.’ He’s explaining this now to his disciples. ¹⁹ ‘When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart. This is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. ²¹ Yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who, indeed, bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another, sixty, and in another, thirty.”

- **Matthew 13:18-23**

“That day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there.”

- **Matthew 13:1-2**

What Barriers Keep Me From Growth?

1. Growth requires soil (heart) that is _____.

Is my heart soft and tender and open towards God? Is it receptive or is it hard? Is there bitterness inside me?

“That is why I use these parables, for they look, but they don’t really see. They hear, but they don’t really listen or understand.” - Matthew 13:13

2. The soil is _____.

Is your faith putting down deep roots, deep devotion?

What kind of depth is in your life? Are you in deep community these days?

3. The soil is _____.

“Some seeds fall among weeds and thorns.” - Matthew 13:7

Your prayer:

"Lord, I need your strength to do some weeding and remove clutter from my life so that my roots can grow deep so my life might thrive."

We are also called to be _____.

“The kingdom of God is like a man that sows seeds. He scatters it, and then he sleeps and rises day and night and the seed grows. He does not know how.” - Mark 4:26-27