Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

August 24, 2025

How is your soil?

by Darrell Trammel

When Jesus delivered the parable of the sower, He revealed something very important – not everyone's heart is the same and not everyone will respond to the truth of the gospel in the same way. He reveals 4 possibilities in Matthew 13:

1. Some seed is sown along the path and the evil one comes and snatches it away.
2. Some seed is sown on rocky ground, which results in temporary joy and allegiance, but there is no endurance to last.
3. Some seed is chocked out by soil that has thorns growing in it (cares of the world and deceitfulness or riches) resulting in the word being choked out.
4. Finally, some seed is sown on good ground and yields good fruit.

Further, when Jesus explains the parable He reveals these are people's hearts. We often refer to this to explain why people do or don't respond to the gospel. However, I think there is another lesson that is personally applicable. What is the condition of OUR heart? Our heart changes over time based on what we allow in. We can be receptive but not enduring. We can be fruitful at one stage of life, but let the world into our hearts and lose our fruitfulness. So what do we do?

First, examine yourselves. How do you respond when you hear or read the word? Does it motivate you? Does it prompt action? Maybe the soil of our hearts needs to be cultivated so it can be more receptive to the word of God! We need good soil that will listen and build faith. We cannot be "bystanders" in the faith, watching what happens around us but not really being affected ourselves.

Second, keep planting. Consider James 3:17=18, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." This is the harvest (fruit) that we

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

want! So keep planting the wisdom that is from above into your hearts!

Third, be sure to be sowing spiritually. Galatians 3:7-8 says, "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." We must value AND sow spiritually. The world is constantly trying to get our attention. We need the right kind of focus in our lives in order to have the right outcome – reaping eternal life.

How is your heart? Is it good soil? Is it fruitful? Make sure you are working to develop and keep good soil that we may endure and reap eternal life!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is in pain and limited mobility.

Jimmy Stinnett is struggling from his leukemia and is under treatment. He has good days and bad days. He was recently hospitalized for a broken hip.

Dianna Jarrett had emergency surgery.

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Marcia Neuhaus, Dorthy Steadman, Dinah Williams

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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