







The parable of the sower:

- The seed, the message of the kingdom, has the potential to bear all the fruit of the kingdom. The fruit of the kingdom lies within the seed (apple seeds – apples)
- The problem is not with the seed, but with the soil. The problem is not with the message, the message has the power of the kingdom, the issue is how we hear. Be careful how you listen. *So, how do we hear, so that it bears kingdom fruit?*

The parable of the sower:

- First, to develop a heart receptive to the message of the kingdom, recognize there is a battle for truth in our soul. Hold on to the truth. “When people hear the message about the kingdom and do not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their hearts.” (Mt. 13:19) (e.g., “That’s not true. God can’t forgive you for that.” “You can’t get free. You’ll never change.” “You can’t pray & see power. God can’t use you.”)

The parable of the sower:

- Second, to develop a heart receptive to the message of the kingdom, pass the tests when difficulty comes. (Matthew 13:20-21, “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to people who hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word they quickly fall away.”) (e.g., new believer; e.g., praying for sick – God doesn’t answer. Envy.) (e.g., more – Jen)

The parable of the sower:

- Third, to develop a heart receptive to the message of the kingdom we need to weed out distractions. (Matthew 13:22, "The seed falling among the thorns refers to people who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.")

The parable of the sower:

- Third, to develop a heart receptive to the message of the kingdom we need to weed out distractions. Matthew 13:22
- We get so focused on the temporal, we lose sight of the eternal. Weeds distract us. But, when Jesus is our first love, and the kingdom is our first commitment, our hearts are ready to receive. (pressure from priorities) (pressure from religion - ATS student)

The parable of the sower:

- **The point: *Be careful how you listen to the message of the Kingdom.*** Those who listen carefully receive more. Matthew 13:11-12, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given to you, but not to them. Those who have will be given more, and they will have an abundance. As for those who do not have, even what they have will be taken from them."
