



# table talk

3/1/26

*Matthew 13:23 NKJV:*

*“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

In just a few weeks, many of us will flood the outdoor shops in search of seeds, plants and soil. My inbox will be inundated with articles and offers about quality soil, conditioners and growth aids. The bottom line is that all these companies want my money. And they usually get some. But I've got to give them credit - the better the soil, the better the results.

I remember how my Uncle James grew the sweetest watermelons. When I asked him if I could take one home, he told me where to find them. About two feet off the porch was a patch of the beauties coming up with no particular observable patterns of planting.

Uncle James was a farmer, and his fields were amazing. His watermelon patch was a contradiction to his large scale farming. I asked him about it, and he said, “I never plant watermelon seeds. Me and Myrtie Mae sit on the swing, eat watermelon, and spit the seeds off the porch. The chickens eat some and scatter the rest, but most of them sprout and grow like crazy.”

**I asked for tips, seed types and protocol. “Well, Steve, all I do is eat and spit. Most anything will grow if it’s in good soil. The key to just about everything in farming is good dirt.”**

Though Jesus was a carpenter and not a farmer, I think He understood what Uncle James meant.

One of the most popular parables of Jesus is the story of the “the sower who went out to sow.”

I have heard many sermons about (1) the man who sows, and (2) the seed he sows. The lessons I've heard are true and worth hearing, but I really think our focus should be on the soil. Oh, I know we must

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not forget we are saved because God draws us and the Spirit convicts us of truth about sin, righteousness and judgment. We embrace our responsibility to be His “Sowers,” or His Witnesses. His Word is spread by His Church. Yet, we must also take note that the result of the seed being fruitful is connected to the type of soil that receives it.

**The seed was the same for each result. It was the same farmer who scattered them. The seed and the sower were not the issue. The issue was the soil.**

Some soil was hard and rocky. Nothing more than bird seed. Some soil was shallow and not cultivated, so there was little depth and they didn’t last long in the heat. Some soil was good, but weeds (cares and worries; a lack of faith) limited their productivity. Some soil was clear and well-tended, and it created a place exponentially fruitful.

The message of the parable is clear – if your life was evaluated in terms of soil, what kind of soil would you be? The question is important because it determines the kind of life you will live and the way it’ll turn out. The debate among scholars extends to whether this parable is about being saved or living a fruitful life. Maybe it’s both.

We know we are not saved by works or self-effort. But I think our “soil type” (i.e. the way we live and our attitude toward God’s Word) are determinants of at least three things:

1. Our fellowship quality with the Lord.
2. Our quantity and quality of spiritual fruit we produce.
3. Our rewards in Heaven.

Here’s my question: is the attitude of our life one that welcomes the Word and produces a spiritual harvest that is pleasing to the Lord?

I love you,  
**Pastor Stephen**