

“Red Letter Words: The Seed”

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

Ray Cortese, February 15/16, 2014

Reflect on the Text

*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Jesus said, “He who has ears, let him hear.” What keeps us from truly hearing the word of God?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE POWER OF THE SEED

- 3 How is the imagery of a sower and seed counterintuitive to how most people define power?
- 4 Hebrews says the word of God is living and active. It has re-creative power. What are some of the ways the word has changed you?
- 5 The word of God can set people free from the worst bondages and heaviest weights. Who is someone you would never think could be changed by the word? If you haven’t been praying for them how might you begin to?

THE RECEPTION OF THE SEED

- 6 Describe in your own words the symbolism of the four soils. Have you been one of these four soils at any time in your life? Do you know someone who represents each soil?
- 7 Ray said, "In order to get the seed to go deep you have to massage it in." Name as many ways as you can think of to become a person full of the word of God.

THE FRUIT OF THE SEED

- 8 Why do seeds have to die in order to produce fruit? How does this relate to Jesus' ministry?
- 9 There is a difference between saying, "Jesus died for the world," and "Jesus died for me". When did you first weep over the truth that Jesus came to save *you*?
- 10 How were you impacted by celebrating the Lord's Supper?

Final Reflections

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?