EMPHASIS: **PRAYER** TOPIC: **THE SOURCE OF PRODUCING**

Main Emphasis Idea:

How much actual work have done on the process of understanding prayer, do we get what it means to actually “pray.”

Matthew 13: 1-9
That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, 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 produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

Question That Need Answers:

1. What is the meaning for today behind the 4 places seed is thrown
2. What is our actual understanding of the depth of this parable.
3. How do we create good soil?

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Intro

There are fundamentals that if you have these things you are normally good to good, I feel that way about scripture, there are 4 fundamental portions of scripture that I think if you have, you can really understand the teachings of Jesus and The Kingdom of God.

One of those... Is Matthew 13 and the parable of The Sower.

I think Matthew 13 is one of the richest text of understanding how we get the gospel in us, how we understand the rejection of the gospel, and how we understand society and our relationship with it.

Understanding the Parable of the weeds

4 places Jesus sows his soil... Or maybe a better way to say it, the gospel and The Kingdom of God comes to people in 4 ways.

Along the path - Doesn't understand / Believe
Rocky Ground - Has no root, once times get tuff abandons
Among Thorns - Cares of the World and Riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful
Good Soil - He hears and understands - bares fruit within his capacity

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1. Along the path

So the first thing we need to understand is this... **The type of soil is a representation of "the condition of The human heart"**

Along the path, is one of the most representative ways of looking at secularism in the west today...Because you see here is what people try to do, they try to take the Kingdom by force, they are actually trying to bend The Kingdom of God, to what they believe it should mean or represent.

Its statements like this...

“What if I don't believe in Jesus, but I'm a really good person"

"Doesn't Jesus teach on loving everyone, so shouldn't we just love people and let them be”

“I believe in God, and love Jesus, but I just don't believe the bible”

That's what taking The Kingdom by force is... Its saying no it has to mold into this, I want it to be like that.

“The Path is the condition of the heart that worships the world.”

“There is enough light for those who only desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition.”
— Blaise Pascal

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2. Rocky Ground - Has no root, once times get tuff abandons

This is where things get interesting..because I think, if I am being honest... The church creates more rocky ground then we think.

Matthew 13: 20-21
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 he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

I call this salvation before presentation...

We have moved into this idea that let's get people saved, then explain to them what this whole thing is about, 1. The early church would disagree and 2. I think we are not planting roots and doing more harm then good.

Preaching like an apostle, without joining together those that are awakened and training them up in the ways of God, is only begetting children for the murderer
- John Wesley

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3. Among Thorns - Cares of the World and Riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful

Because here is the mistake we make with this verse a lot... Those that are among the thorns, are not those who become unsaved, rather those who produce no fruit.

This to me is one of the most eye opening teachings of Jesus... Because most of us are not seeing transformation because we are evil... Rather most us aren't seeing the fruit of spirit and transformation, because we allow everything around us to choke away any vine that could be fruitful.

Eventually... Jesus has to move into the place of first love... And that sounds like a burden, but it's only a burden, if simply having only Jesus is not completely satisfying.

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4. Good Soil - He hears and understands - bares fruit within his capacity

Matthew13:23
23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Some yield 100, 60, and 30. Now, the beauty of this, is this, Jesus' expectation of us is never to do, accomplish, or obtain what he has not already put in us. Now we can debate for years what it means to yield different amounts, but I think the point is actually, that if you are called to yield 30... The expectation is not 60, and if you are called to yield 60... The expectation will never be 100.

We often build an expectation of what is expected of us when it comes to following Jesus, but church the good news is, you are simply called to yield what Jesus has already put inside you.

Now I want to end with a question... And I am not going to lie, I plan on answering it, but only partially.

Verse 23 opens with “what was sown on good soil”, and my question is this...

"How do we get good soil?”

The answer church... Is prayer.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18
16 But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Let me make something very clear tonight, you will never see fruit, you will never see transformation, and you will never truly hunger for Jesus, without a life of prayer.

I would be as bold to make this statement...

"Prayer is the make up of the Christian life.”