

SERMON APPLICATION SHEET FOR:

Rev. Tony Felich

Do You Have Ears to Hear?

Matthew 13:1-23

May 17, 2026

Sermon Text

Matthew 13:1 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." [10] Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" [11] And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. [12] For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [13] This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. [14] Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'" [15] For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.'" [16] But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. [17] For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. [18] "Hear then the parable of the sower: [19] When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. [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. [22] As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. [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."

Sermon Notes

Jesus teaches in parables to reveal kingdom truth to those with ears to hear, and calls His people to receive the Word deeply so that they bear lasting fruit.

I. Jesus uses parables to reveal kingdom truth to receptive hearts (10-17)

II. The condition of your heart determines how you receive the Word (1-9, 18-23)

Memory verses for 2026-

Ephesians 4:1-3

- [1] I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you To walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
- [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- [3] eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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Sermon Application Questions

1. Discuss how and why Jesus used parables to teach Kingdom truth.
2. The sermon noted that the good soil is prepared by the Sower — not good because of anything in us. How does that shape the way you pray for unbelieving friends and family members?
3. J.I. Packer is quoted saying that the Spirit "opens and unveils our minds and attunes our hearts" to understand Scripture. What does that suggest about how we should approach Bible reading, sermons, and small group discussions like this one?
4. The sermon pointed out that Abraham, Job, David, and the prophets all longed to see what we now have in Christ. How does that perspective change the way you approach the New Testament — or your faith in general?
5. The closing illustration was a baby receiving glasses and seeing for the first time. If someone asked you, "When did your spiritual sight get turned on?" — what would you say?

Prayer Requests

This week our family will lift up requests for:

This week our family will praise the Lord for:

HFG Notes & Actions:

Next HFG meeting is: