

“When the Word Finds Room”

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 12, 2026

Most of us know what it is like to hear something true, good, and even necessary, and still not be changed by it. We hear wise advice, loving correction, or a word from Scripture, and we agree with it. Yet somehow the week gets noisy, old habits return, anxieties crowd in, and the good word does not take root as deeply as we hoped.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. A sower scatters seed generously, almost recklessly, across every kind of ground. Some seeds fall on the path and are eaten by birds. Some fall on rocky soil and spring up quickly, but wither because they have no roots. Some fall among thorns and are choked by the cares of the world and the lure of wealth. Some fall on good soil and bear an abundant harvest.

The problem Jesus names is not that God’s Word lacks power, but that our hearts become too hard, shallow, or crowded to receive what God is sowing. The seed is good. The sower is generous. God’s grace is not stingy. Christ keeps scattering the Word among the eager, the distracted, the wounded, the skeptical, and the weary.

But the sermon also resists turning this parable into another command to “try harder.” Soil does not improve itself by moral effort. Soil receives. It is softened, cleared, tended, and prepared. The issue is not effort alone. It is formation.

That is where the gospel speaks. Christ is the one who receives the Father’s will without resistance, remains faithful under suffering, and bears fruit through death and resurrection. Jesus, God’s Word incarnate, is not only the seed that enters our soil, but also the hand that opens and prepares us for growth.

The invitation this week is simple: take one sentence of Scripture and give it room. Read it. Carry it. Let it interrupt you once during the day. This is an opening for active grace to shape and transform the day, both for you and for those around you.