

# Sermon Notes

## The New Life: Part a

### May 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

- **The New Life**
- Jesus changed the world with two words, “Follow Me.”
  - o These words are still changing the world...and if you let them, they will change your world.
- One of the great promises of the Bible is that our lives will be dramatically changed for the better.
  - o **John 3:1-8**
    - Born of the Spirit is something very new!! Nicodemus had trouble catching it.
  - o **Romans 6:1-11**
    - Dead to sin, alive to God. Now the followers of Jesus live a new life!!
- New Life is an amazing promise...but people can respond to the promise very differently.
  - o I've responded to it differently at different times over my lifetime, which is not uncommon.
    - Orville in Chicago. Obviously, something changed.
  - o Often people's response to the promise is shaped by their understanding of the promise.
- Parable of the Sower. **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**
  - o Hard Path. Some reject the promise outright.
    - They don't think it's a real promise or they think it is a bad promise. So, they reject it.
  - o Rocky/Shallow Soil. These people don't expect it to be a struggle, so that throws them off.
    - This is fairy tale religion or “Platitude Christianity.”
      - Everything happens for a reason...God won't give you more than you can handle...
        - o And then the devil kicks them in the teeth. So, they run away.
  - o Among Thorns. These people don't understand the priority that God demands.
    - Jesus 8<sup>th</sup>, right after a good nap, is not how this works.
    - This is “Consumer Christianity.” Take what you want but you don't make a difference.
  - o Good Soil. These understand.
    - They understand the reality of the spiritual world and the quality of the promise.
    - They understand the battle that must be fought and that hardships are included.
    - They understand that God's Kingdom must be first and that the rest is a blessing.
    - They make a difference. “Produce a crop.”
- In this series I want to talk about many of the common experiences of the New Life.
  - o This should be helpful to improve the understanding of those committed to Christ.
  - o AND, this should be helpful for those seeking. If you are going to decide to follow Christ, you should at least have some information about what that means. I think that's fair.
- What is “the message about the kingdom” or “the word” spoken of in Matt 13?
  - o Well, that's what this series is all about...but let me give you my short version.
    - The Creator God is real. You are part of creation. God has a plan.
    - The Kingdom that The Father wants is eternal, perfect, no sin, no death, no pain...and it is supposed to be full of creative, intelligent, free willed beings like you and me.
    - Problem: creative intelligent free willed beings tend to create problems that ruin the plan.
      - First half of the solution: destroy those who ruin the plan. That's fair, right??
        - o Second problem: now the Kingdom is uninhabitable!! That won't work.
      - Second half of the solution: redeem those who ruin the plan and teach them how not to ruin the plan.
        - o Jesus paid the redeemers price.
        - o Now, we live The New Life to learn how not to ruin the plan.
  - o In short, **John 3:16**.
    - If you are ready, let's get started on The New Life...
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).