**The Parable of the Sower – Bible Study for Homegroups**

**St. Margaret’s 9th July 2023 – Robert Lovatt**

Jesus uses a number of illustrations and parables from the agrarian world to teach essential Christian Principles. One of the most well known is the parable of the Sower

1. How would you describe the central meaning of this parable?
2. What would you say was Jesus’s purpose in giving us this parable?
3. What do the different elements of soil and seed represent?
4. 4 different types of soil are mentioned. What is the spiritual significance of each? Could you give a descriptive scenario for each?
5. At the end of verse 8 Jesus comes up with a curious phrase, ‘‘Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.’ What do you think Jesus means by this?
6. Jesus speaks about the ‘secrets of the Kingdom of God’ in verse 9. In what sense is a knowledge of the Kingdom of God ‘Secret’?
7. Seeing and not seeing, hearing but not hearing – are two phrases used in verse 10. They seem somewhat enigmatic. What do you think Jesus is getting at*? (This comes from a quotation in Isaiah 6v9 – and it is a hard passage. Many interpretations have been proffered but my own understanding is that the parable express a simple truth that the religious experts belittled. Although at one level they understood what Jesus was saying they would nevertheless refuse to believe it and apply it. They had their own alternative understanding different from Jesus’. Although they did in a sense understand what Jesus was trying to say their hearts remained hard and unbelieving and Jesus would refuse them entry to the Kingdom if they came as such. Probably their beliefs were more connected with rigorous obedience to the law rather than being open hearted to the word of God as Jesus was proclaiming it.)*
8. Jesus explains the parable in verses 11 – 15 perhaps more plainly than verses 4 – 8. What do we learn from this second section that we didn’t learn in the first?