

# The Year Of Following Jesus #90 Sower & Seeds

September 11, 2023

*Welcome Home!*  
*Thanks for joining us today*

**September 16 & 17, 2023**

Come to the River

**Welcome**

My Lighthouse

Believe for It

**Lord's Supper Thought**

Rescue

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**Lesson: The Year(s) of Following Jesus #90**

**What's the Deal with Parables? — Pastor Ed**



## **Good Stuff To Know**

**Riverside Services Online-** If you aren't in town on the weekend, you can still follow our services. We live stream each service on Facebook! You can also watch them anytime through Facebook by navigating over to <https://www.facebook.com/EagleRiverside>. And you don't need a Facebook account to watch the videos.

**Offerings To Riverside - In case you were wondering-** We don't pass a collection plate at Riverside. If you'd like to give, there are boxes at the back & envelopes in the information racks for cash donations. If you would like the convenience of giving online, go to [www.EagleRiverside.com](http://www.EagleRiverside.com), click on "Give" and follow the directions. Your donations are an answer to our prayers and are the only means by which Riverside is able to operate.

**FAQs -** Have questions about why we do what we do and why we don't do what we don't do? Chances are you'll find more about it on our FAQs page. You can access the page from our website or text the word "Guest" to 907-312-2662 and you'll receive a link to the page.



### First Time Visitors

#### The Lord's Supper (Communion)

This is a time when we "commune" with God and remember Jesus' sacrifice. We also "commune" with one another as His church family. You are welcome to participate with us by going to one of the tables set up with trays- each cup is actually 2 cups (bread in bottom and juice on top) so grab a set of cups and take it back to your place (and don't forget to social distance). You can eat/drink the cracker and juice whenever you feel ready and then throw the cups away on your way out (there are trash cans at all exits). Everyone is welcome to join us if you're interested in remembering Jesus' life & sacrifice with us.

"Welcome To Riverside" brochure available online.  
[www.EagleRiverside.com](http://www.EagleRiverside.com)

### This Week At Riverside

(Specific info about these activities is listed in the "Happenings" section)

- ➡ **Warrios in Christ Monday**
- ➡ **Thrive Thursday**
- ➡ **Service project: Learning with Laughter**

#### Need To Talk?...

The church office is not staffed during the week. There is a preschool that uses our building, so Ed, Aniela & Nate work from home. If you would like to contact them directly you can call them or email and set up an appointment.

Ed - 907.306.2823, [ednjude@gmail.com](mailto:ednjude@gmail.com)

Aniela - 907.748.1556, [anielawhah@gmail.com](mailto:anielawhah@gmail.com)

Nate - 907.360.4825, [nrsandback@gmail.com](mailto:nrsandback@gmail.com)

Cassie - 907.360.2996, [cassiemaylinn@yahoo.com](mailto:cassiemaylinn@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.EagleRiverside.com](http://www.EagleRiverside.com)

Facebook: EagleRiverside

### Riverside Happenings

**Service Project** - Our September service project is Learning with Laughter, a Christian program bringing education to children in Liberia. \$125 will sponsor one student per school year. Our goal is to sponsor 25 kids in September, but donations can be made for school supplies and food all year long.

**Young Adults Group** - Alive is back online with a Bible add devotional. Text Cassie for details.

**Riverside Potluck** - Next potluck October 8th after the 2nd service. Bring a dish to share.

**Warriors in Christ** - Meeting September 18th. See Nate for details.

**Ladies Craft Day** - Bring your own craft and a dish to share. Saturday, October 14th, 10am-4pm at the church. See Becky 812-449-7004.

**Men's Prayer Group** - Currently discussing "Praying in God's Word." Contact Hank at 713 548 7446.

**Baptism** - Want to get baptized or have questions? Scan the QR code or go to [www.EagleRiverside.com/baptism](http://www.EagleRiverside.com/baptism)



**Write to our missionaries**- See the bulletin board for more info. Contact Hank at 713 548 7446.

### Upcoming Youth Events

**Monday, September 25th, 6:00 - 7:30**

Ignite and Rev (our two younger youth groups) will combine at Riverside for pizza, games, and a devotional.

For 4th - 8th graders. Questions? Like to help?

See Cassie.



**Thursday, September 21st, 6:00 - 8:00**

9th - 12th graders. At Riverside. Pizza, games, and a devotional. Questions? Like to help? See Aniela.



To get updates, text the following to **907.312.2662**:

"IGNITE" (4th & 5th) "REV" (6th-8th), -or- "THRIVE" (9th-12th).

Everybody's Welcome...

Nobody's Perfect...

Anything's Possible!

# Following The Year(s) Of Jesus #90 What's The Deal With Parables?



*Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables. This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world."*

*—Matthew 13:34-35 (NLT)*

*You cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'*

*—Matthew 15:6-9 (NLT)*

- *Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.*

*—Matthew 13:9 (NLT)*

## **This Parable Teaches Us That...**

### **1. It's All About The Kingdom.**

- *I will make you into a great nation... All the nations on earth will be blessed through you."*

—Genesis 12:2-3 (NLT)

- *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

—Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV)

- *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

—Matthew 4:17 (NIV)

- *Some of the Pharisees asked Jesus, "When will the kingdom of God come?" Jesus answered, "God's kingdom is coming, but not in a way that you will be able to see with your eyes. People will not say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' because God's kingdom is within you."*

—Luke 17:20-21 (NCV)

- *May your kingdom come and your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven.*

—Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

## **2. It's All About Our Hearts.**

- *Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds:*

—Matthew 13:18 (NLT)

### **i. The Oblivious Heart/Soil.**

- *The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts.*

—Matthew 13:19 (NLT)

### **ii. Drank The Kool-Aid Heart/Soil.**

- *The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.*

—Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT)

### iii. **Divided Heart/Soil.**

- *The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.*

—Matthew 13:22 (NLT)

### iv. **Dedication Heart/Soil.**

- *The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"*

—Matthew 13:23 (NLT)

- *Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.*

—Matthew 13:9 (NLT)

- *May your kingdom come and your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven.*

—Matthew 6:10 (NLT)

## **Follow Through Step:**

**Pray the prayer of dedication- Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Or- Let Your Kingdom come and let it begin with me.**