

**WHITFIELD PARISH**  
St James' Church † St Luke's Church

**LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 28 September 2008**

**Harvest – The parable of the sower**  
Matthew 13.1-10; 18-23

***Read Matthew 13.1-10,18-23***

A very familiar passage of Scripture! It is easy to skim through a passage we feel we know well and not really pay it close attention. Share together your personal tips for keeping focused when reading the Bible. What kinds of things get in the way and how do you deal with them?

This parable is made very easy to understand because Jesus himself gives the explanation in v18-23! The parable explains why some people respond to the Gospel and become part of God's Kingdom while others do not. The seed (the Gospel) is the same no matter where it is scattered: if it lands in fertile ground it **will** bear fruit.

How can we prepare people to receive the Gospel?

- i) the ones who might not understand and so are ill-equipped to resist the evil one (v19)
- ii) the ones who might give up when difficult times come along (v20-21)
- iii) the ones who are in danger of being overwhelmed by the worries of this world (v22)

In v23 we have a picture of what it means to be a whole-hearted follower of Jesus:

- i) According to this verse, what are the characteristics of those who are fully devoted to Jesus?
- ii) How do we become like this? Some clues can be found in: Romans 12.1-2; Galatians 2.20-21; Ephesians 5.1-2,15-16; Philippians 4.4-7; Colossians 3.16.

Spend some time thinking and praying about the implications of this passage for:

1. You personally
2. Your LIFE group
3. The parish