



**Go Deeper, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023: Seed and Good Soil**

Dear Miners,

The story of last Sunday was about the sower and where the seed fell. The O.T reading that went with it was about the joy people would have in being led by God out of exile and back to their ancestral homeland. So the two questions for last Sunday were

- What might being 'good soil' *look* like?
- What might being 'good soil' *feel* like?

What do you think being open to the love of God growing evermore in our lives could look like? If all love comes originally from God, are there people you can think of whose lives look closer to the images that Jesus gave us than the lives of many of us who name ourselves as followers of Jesus?

An additional text was 1 John 4:6, "those who live in love live in God and God lives in them." Does this text or passage challenge our ideas of who is 'in Christ' and who isn't? Sometimes we worry about loved ones who don't show an interest in God or the church but are living loved filled and generous lives. Do we need to be anxious for them?

After the collection is taken on a Sunday when it is blessed before being put on the altar some of the words used are "All things come from you and of your own do we give you."

- Can we peacefully say those words not just about money but about our loved ones?
- Can we honestly say that about our lives?

Turning to the 2nd of Sunday's questions: 'What might it feel like to let Gods love grow in us?'

- Do you differentiate between how you feel about your relationship with God and how you feel about coming to church/being part of church?
- Do you recognise that feeling that you are not doing enough?
- Is there a difference between 'feeling pressured, either by yourself or by others, and being led by God 'in joy and peace'?
- Do you 'feel/ or experience yourself as loved by God?

**Further resources**

If you'd like to go even further I would suggest searching on line for Biblical commentaries on the 2 passages and on the 1 John 4:6 quote. For those who haven't used commentaries before, give it a try, they are not difficult.

Love (and thanks) to all.

Sue