**Week 5: Receptive Hearts for the Word**

-Ended last week with John 5:38-40 where they do not have the word even though they are studying it… how can this be? They didn’t RECEIVE it!!

* Matt 13: parable of the sower!!!
  + Jesus says all other parables ride on this one (Mk 4:13)… let’s dive into why
  + The seed is the SAME EVERY TIME. But 6 different results… why? The soil… aka your heart.
  + Mark 4:10-12… SEEK Jesus out. He wants to reveal but is testing to see who is really hungry. Don’t be content to not understand.
  + Matt 5:8… your heart affects your sight
* What does ‘receive’ connote?
  + Humility (James 1:21) which prepares you to receive from outside yourself
  + From Someone else (James 1:21-implanted & Matt 11:25-30--you can only receive revelation from Jesus! & 1 Pet 1:23…born again through *imperishable seed*=only by God[Gal 3:3])
  + What does Jesus say receiving God’s word looks like? Matt 7:24-29… ***obedience*** is key. Why do our lives get destroyed in the end if we didn’t obey the Word? Well.. John 12:44-50=Word will judge us in the end
    - Jesus says to love Him is to obey His Word… If we love Him, we love the Word and to love it means to lay down our lives down to it (1 John 2:3,5:3-4)
      * He even says the ones who do His Father’s will are His real relatives in Matt 12:50
    - Prov 1:7-8=Starts with fearing God (the ultimate surrender to do whatever He says; His will is higher than your will)
      * Prov 1:20-22 Wisdom is yelling LOUDER… God is willing, the problem is your ears
      * Prov 1:23-33=we can only receive after we’ve repented and are willing to obey because that is what true receiving is (obedience)

A case study: Samuel (1 Sam 3:1-11)… he hears, then tries to go to the religious leader and they don’t know; he learns he has to go directly to God. Once he identifies himself as God’s ***servant***, God reveals Himself (we only know God through His own revelation of Himself). Take away: be His servant (Isaiah 66:2) and He will reveal His word, voice, presence, truth to you and you will ***know Him*** (v.7)