



CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD
FROM
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

We are pleased to continue to bring you our Care Conversations. In the first series, Dr Stephen Fyson brought us some reflections on *Mere Christian Education*, based on CS Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. In this next set, Stephen brings us some encouragement from the Gospel according to Matthew – often called the *Teachers' Gospel*.

We hope that this service from The Excellence Centre continues to support you in this wonderful ministry of Christian Education. Please remember to contact us with any ideas about how we may be able to assist you more.

Dr Tina Lamont

Director TEC

The Excellence Centre

Series 2:

THE TEACHERS' GOSPEL...

REFLECTION BY
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Number 10:

Good Soil



But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. (Matthew 13:23)

This is one of those passages that threw me somewhat the first time I had a careful read of it after starting in Christian schooling. There are so many questions that can come out of it, and probably a good too many debates to have about it - particularly if we are into over-interpreting – something I have been apparently known to do!

There are four responses to hearing about the Kingdom of God in this parable: (a) the resistant response; (b) the shallow response; (c) the distracted response; and (d) the productive response.

We could waste a lot of time arguing over whose responsibility is the response – the person, the teachers of the person, their families... in what combination and to what degree? In educational psychology it is assumed that if we know someone's physical make-up and social background we should be able to get such things correct most of the time. This thinking has also come

into the Church, and thus our Christian schools.

But we are saved by Grace through Faith, and we live by Faith. Thus we teach by Faith, and trust God with the rest. Our teaching is to always be loving, which is to say we will teach to our very best, as unto the Lord. And in that Faith, we pray that our students will grow into a true relationship with Christ, be a true disciple in fellowship with others, and then bear the fruit.

Let us pray: *Lord Jesus, please let it be so! Amen.*

Grace and peace,

Stephen J Fyson PhD
Principal Consultant
The Excellence Centre



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- Provide excellent products, services and research products
- Practice Christian Community

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