



WEEK 2: PARABLE OF THE SOWER

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The pastor discussed how Jesus' teachings centered around the Kingdom of God and emphasized the importance of having a receptive heart. Using the parable of the Sower, he illustrated how different heart conditions—like hardened paths, rocky ground, and thorny weeds—can hinder our growth. The message highlighted the necessity of self-reflection, repentance, and nurturing our faith through consistent spiritual practices. Ultimately, the pastor called on individuals to yield their will to God, allowing Him to prepare their hearts for a fruitful harvest.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 13:1-23 (NLT)

1 Peter 5:7-8 (NLT)

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

The Seed on the Path | Matthew 13:4, 19

The parable illustrates how our desire for control creates environments that are not fit for growth.

- a. **Matthew 13:4, 19** mentions that the seed on the path represents those who hear the message but don't let it penetrate their heart. What do you think prevents people from truly understanding God's word?
- b. Consider distractions in your own life, how have they made it difficult to give up control to listen and understand Jesus' teachings?

2

The Rocky Soil | Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21

The sermon talks about how insubstantial roots can cause faith to wilt when faced with challenges, like plants that don't establish deep roots.

- a. It's important to know Jesus' heart. What do you think Jesus means describing those with "no firm root", and how might that relate to the condition of our hearts in difficult times?
- b. When your faith feels shaky, what are some things you do—or could do—to deepen our spiritual roots?

3

Among Thorns | Matthew 13:7, 22

Pastor illustrates how distractions from materialism, worry, and the fast pace of life can choke out our spiritual growth.

- a. What are the 'thorns' in your life? How do they affect our ability to grow fruitfully?
- b. If those thorns or weeds, in your life have caused a lack in trusting God, how do we begin trusting Him again?

4

The Good Soil | Matthew 13:8-9, 23

Pastor emphasizes the importance of allowing God to actively cultivate our hearts by yielding to Him and nurturing daily habits.

- a. What does it mean to prepare 'good soil' in our hearts for God's word to take root and flourish, according to the sermon?

- b. What are the areas in our life God desires good soil that we struggle to yield? What intimidates us about surrender to Him, who wants good things for us?

5

Jesus' Grace in Reflection

The pastor shared that Jesus expressed grace in His teaching, causing listeners to reflect on themselves and be conscious of their heart posture.

- a. What is the purpose of Jesus wanting us to be aware of our heart posture?
- b. Reflect on **Matthew 13:3-9 & 18-23**, and ask yourself, which soil are you today? Be honest with yourself and allow Jesus to meet you here.

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection: Take a deep breath and read...

The reality is, our heart is not always in the right place, but God desires you to know so you can trust in Him.

- Reflect on **Matthew 13:3-9 & 18-23**, and ask yourself, which soil are you today? Be honest with yourself and allow Jesus to meet you here.
- Will you stay on the path, the rocky place, among thorns, or live out planted in good soil? Know God is not mad at you, but ask Him how you might live in good soil today.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Flourishing Fruitfully: This week, write down:

- One spiritual discipline you can commit to this week to help nurture your heart and deepen your faith.
- How you will stay accountable to this discipline.

Ask the Holy Spirit, *continuously*, to help keep your heart on Him in every season.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

1 Peter 5:7: "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you."

Let the group rest in that promise as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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