

Jesus Stories: Parable of the Sower

This week's reading: Mark 4:1-20

Discussion Guide: January 5, 2025

CHECK UP:

Memory Work: Check on passage from last week
What did you find most encouraging from last week's gathering?

OPEN:

- What was a highlight in your week this past week? What was a particular challenge you had?
- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?

READ and ASK: Matthew 13:1-23

- How would you define a parable? Why do you define it that way?
 - o What reasons does Jesus give for the reason he uses parables?
 - o How does Jesus' challenge in verse 9 help explain verses 11-12?
 - o What do parables accomplish that simple and direct speech lacks?
- In what way does this parable emphasize the importance of understanding? (vs 13-15, vs 19, vs 23)
- What characterizes each type of soil (heart)? Give some examples.
- How do you make hearing and acting on God's Word a priority in your life?

APPLY:

- What in your life nurtures your spiritual growth?
- As you listen to the description of the four soils, which of the four best describes your current position when it comes to listening to the words of Jesus?
 - o What cultivation in your life needs to take place (what is keeping you shallow? What is choking out the good seed?)
 - o How would you describe your root system?
- NEXT STEP: What one action could you do this week to improve the way you listen to God's Word?

Memory Work:

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. - Matthew 13:16

Next Week's Reading:

Matthew 13:24-32