

THE GOOD SOIL

June 6, 2021 | Luke 8:4-15 | Pastor Michael Foster

An introduction to parables

- What is a parable?
A simple story drawn from the material world that illustrates and illuminates spiritual truth.
- Why did Jesus teach in parables?
 - To reveal His truth further to those who were seeking Him and to conceal His truth from those who were rejecting Him. *Luke 6:9-10, Matthew 13:11-17*
 - To demonstrate He is Messiah by fulfilling prophecy. *Matthew 13:34-35, Psalm 78:2*
- How should we interpret parables?
 - Look for one main point.
 - Let Jesus help you – often He explains exactly what He means. *Luke 8:11-15*

The Four Soils of Luke 8:4-15

* The seed is the Word of God which is life-giving (1 Peter 1:23-25), good for you (Psalm 19:7-9), and true (John 17:17)!

The soil	The nature	The outcome	The example	The need
Hardened Soil	No room	Satan steals the Word	The religious leaders	Repentance & Faith (Heb 3:7-19)
Rocky Soil	No roots	Trials dry up the Word	The disciples in the gospels	Eternal perspective & Endurance (James 1:2-4)
Thorny Soil	Many loves	The world chokes out the Word	Demas (2 Tim 4:10)	Renewal of mind & Wholehearted devotion (1 John 2:15-17, Rom 12:1-2)
Good Soil	Much fruit	The Word bears fruit	The early church	Keep holding fast & responding to the Word

Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear!

What are you hearing that you are not yet doing?

What danger is there if you continue in unresponsiveness?

What might the Lord do in and through you if you respond fully to Him?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Invite others to our “Parables of Jesus” drama event during worship services on 6/27 - <https://vimeo.com/444603689/80466af6dc?fbclid=IwAR1YmvgTECLeZP8-KA6tTHW9X5Sm7ZYeUgYUXv1nN4sZQUYwiliGXq1X8fY>
- Meditate on Psalm 19:7-9, Hebrews 3:7-19, James 1:2-4, 1 John 2:15-17, James 4:4-6, Romans 12:1-2.
- Watch “Parables of Jesus” by the Bible Project - www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX-aAg4_U2Q
- Read *A Place of Healing* by Joni Eareckson Tada
- Listen to “Speak, O Lord” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=my90e3a_nIM
- Listen to “Here’s My Heart Lord” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkSBmRAVXNc

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. In your own words, explain what a parable is and why Jesus used them in his teaching.
3. What are some different responses to Jesus you see in the gospels? What are some different responses to Jesus you see in the world today?
4. Share about times in your spiritual journey when your soil was hard, rocky, thorny, or good. How did the Lord continue to lead you in responding to Him through some of these times?
5. Read Psalm 19:7-9. How has the Word of God functioned in some of these ways in your life over the years?
6. In what ways are you currently distracted or discouraged when it comes to reading the Word of God? How can you encourage one another about this?
7. Read James 1:2-4. In what ways has the Lord used a trial to mature your faith and spiritual life?
8. Read 1 John 2:15-17. In what ways has the Lord helped you to let go of the world and cling all the more to him?
9. What is the biggest thing right now that threatens to spoil your soil?
10. Has anyone ever shown you from the Bible how you can know for sure that you have eternal life through faith in Jesus?