

Group/Individual Study

Series - The Greatest Stories Ever Told: Parable of the Four Soils

Passages: Lk 8:4-15

REFLECT on the message heard on Sunday, 7/29

1. Read Luke 8:4-15. Let's focus first on the four different kinds of soil the seed of God's word falls on. In your own words how would you describe what each soil represents? Give examples if you can to make it more concrete.
2. Why does the seed that falls on the rocky, shallow soil not endure? It seems that we need "roots" and depth in Jesus to be able to persevere in the faith through the hardest times. What have you found that builds a deep enough "spiritual root structure" in you to survive that hardships of life?
3. The seed that falls among the thorns is different than that which falls along the path (quickly snatched away) or that which falls in the shallow soil (can't endure hardship). It seems to take root but eventually is simply choked off all it needs to thrive. The passage says that it gets choked by three different types of things: worries, wealth, and pleasures (the connotation being sinful pleasures). Take them one at a time and discuss how worries, wealth, and sinful pleasures can stifle the fruitfulness of God's good "seed" in our lives. Which of these three do you most have to contend with in order to live abundantly in Jesus?
4. Sincere Christ-followers long to be the fourth kind of soil -- being people with noble hearts who embrace Jesus wholeheartedly and bear fruit that builds His kingdom. List the top three things that help you most in living this out. Name one thing you have to be on guard against, since it sometimes trips you up.
5. Let's look at this parable from another angle; that of the one scattering the seed. You and I have been called to scatter the good seed of God's Word to the world around us. What "aha's" or principles occur to you in your capacity as a "seed scatterer" as you read this passage? How might this impact your daily living?
6. In a sense God seems like a lousy farmer → that is to say He generously pours out seed even to folks who aren't ready to respond in a "good soil" kind of way. How might this impact the way you scatter seed? What freedom or empowerment do you find in the fact that you can't control how people respond to the good seed you scatter -- and so must trust God with the results?