

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Parables & Miracles: Revealing Kingdom Secrets February 4, 2024

Summary

Embracing spiritual practices helps us prepare to have God's Word produce fruit in our lives.

Scripture

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)

"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown." Mark 4:3-20 (NIV)

He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head." Mark 4:26-28 (NIV)

Let's Start

Do you garden? If so, what do you like to grow?

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. What was something new you learned in the message?
2. According to the message, how does the parable of the sower in Mark 4 relate to the idea of spiritual growth?
3. Pastor Kyle talked about the four types of soil/people in the parable—
 - Hard Soil: Indifferent and defensive
 - Rocky Soil: Wrong expectations
 - Thorny Soil. Distracted and deceived
 - Good Soil: Good return

Have you witnessed these four "types"? Have you seen them in yourself?

4. What challenges hinder spiritual growth, and how can we address them?
5. Pastor Kyle said, "Our habits determine our hunger." Explain in your own words what that means.
6. Pastor Kyle shared three spiritual habits:
 - Worship softens the soil of our hard heart.
 - Being with a friend who inspires you to love God more.
 - Practicing generosity clears the thorns that choke our soul.

Have you experienced the truth of these statements? Can you think of other spiritual habits that can help you grow deep spiritual roots?

Let's Act

Reflect on your spiritual habits and the condition of your "soil." How can you apply the principles discussed in the sermon to grow deeper roots?

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS