

▼ **Luke 8: Good Soil, Good Listening, Good Team**

**Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 4, 2024**

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▼ **Opening Material**

▼ Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: [Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG](mailto:Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG)
- We are beginning Luke 8.
- First Sunday Q&A will focus on our Training Agenda.

▼ **Feeding on the Life of Jesus**

- Are you “worded up”?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

▼ What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 - 8/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 - 9/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 - 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 - 11/24)

▼ For August this means:

- Read John 3 on August 3 (yesterday).
  - Read John 4 on August 4 (today).
  - Read John 5 on August 5 (tomorrow).
  - As you read, write down any questions you have.
- ▼ Ask yourself the following questions:
- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?

- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

▼ Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ **Thoughts On Teams**

▼ School Sports Teams

- I never played for any school teams.
- I was generally the last person selected for ad hoc games (except rugby at summer camp).

▼ SAP/Web Project Team

- In my prior work I could get the work done with my own technical skills.
- This was my first project in which I was completely dependent on others to get the work done.

▼ **Video**

- [Veritas Forum: The biggest myth about Jesus | N.T. Wright at UT Austin](#) - YouTube (00:03:51)

▼ **Overview**

- Jesus' Kingdom announcement in Luke 4 describes his mission for the rest of the Gospel of Luke.
- Jesus proceeds to choose disciples, teach how the Kingdom works, and demonstrate the Kingdom with miracles, signs, and wonders.
- The Parable of the Soils, describes how God advances the Kingdom.
- Traditional church is not structured to achieve Jesus' goal of establishing the Kingdom by making disciples who make disciples.

- We must change our assumptions and our structures.
- You need a plan! We have one! What are you going to do?

### ▼ **Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.
- Jesus teaches in their synagogues, everyone praises him, news spreads.
- ▼ Jesus attends Synagogue on the Sabbath
  - He reads the Jubilee passage from Isaiah 61 and announces that it is now fulfilled.
  - The people are amazed at the gracious words (words of grace) he is speaking. They cannot reconcile his present ministry with his previous identity - Jesus from around the way.
- This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!

### ▼ **Luke 8:1-15 (NIV) - The Parable of the Sower**

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“ ‘though seeing, they may not see;  
though hearing, they may not understand.’

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

### ▼ Parallel / Related Passages

- **Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV) - The Parable of the Sower**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “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. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“ ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.  
For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives 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. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

- **Mark 4:1-20 (NIV) - The Parable of the Sower**

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: “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.”

- **Isaiah 6 (NIV) - Isaiah’s Commission**

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy , holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for. ”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? ”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

He said, “Go and tell this people:

“ ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’  
Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed.”

Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”

And he answered:

“Until the cities lie ruined  
and without inhabitant,  
until the houses are left deserted  
and the fields ruined and ravaged,  
until the LORD has sent everyone far away  
and the land is utterly forsaken.  
And though a tenth remains in the land,  
it will again be laid waste.  
But as the terebinth and oak  
leave stumps when they are cut down,  
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

## ▼ The Parable of the Soils

### ▼ Narrative

- ▼ Jesus is proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God throughout the towns and villages.
  - “The Kingdom of God is here”.
- ▼ Components of Jesus’ proclamation in Luke 4:14-21:
  - Good news to the poor.
  - Freedom for the prisoners.
  - Recovery of sight for the blind.
  - Set the oppressed free.
  - Proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.
  - Sermon on the Mount
  - His ministry team includes the 12 and some women who are helping to support the team.
- ▼ Lessons
  - ▼ Up until now Jesus is reported as having:
    - Called his 12 Disciples.
    - Healed a man with leprosy.
    - Forgiven and healed a paralyzed man.
    - Called Levi and eaten with tax collectors and other sinners.
    - Taught about old wineskins and fasting.
    - Healed on the Sabbath.
    - Taught the Sermon on the Plain.
    - Healed the servant of the centurion.
    - Raised a widow’s son.
    - Pronounced forgiveness of sins over the woman who anointed him.
  - All of these provide evidence of the types of soil Jesus is about to describe.
  - ▼ Note
    - The seed is God’s Word. The fruit it produces is people.
    - Seed on the path: Not saved
    - Seed on rocky soil: Saved, but no root - they wither and don’t bear fruit.
    - Seed among thorns: Saved, wrong priorities. No fruit.
    - Seed on good soil: Saved and, through perseverance, produce fruit.
  - Don’t let the wrong priorities keep you from reproducing disciples.
  - ▼ Produce disciples by persevering:
    - Build team relationships.
    - Build godly habits. Turn those habits into skills. Be effective in ministry.

- Our training page outlines the skills we need to develop and how they work together.

### ▼ Luke 8:16-18 (NIV) - A Lamp on a Stand

“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

### ▼ Parallel / Related Passages

- Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) - Salt and Light

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 10:24-27 (NIV)

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

- Mark 4:21-25 (NIV) - A Lamp on a Stand

He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”

- Luke 12:1-3 (NIV) - A Lamp on a Stand

Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

### ▼ A Lamp on a Stand

#### ▼ Narrative

- Lamps need to be displayed, not hidden.
- Shine the light you’ve been given. Everything will eventually be revealed.

- If you're listening produces fruit, you will receive more. If not, even what you think you have will be lost.

▼ Lessons

- Listen carefully so that you can do something with what you hear.

▼ **Luke 8:19-21 (NIV) - Jesus' Mother and Brothers**

Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

He replied, "**My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.**"

▼ Parallel / Related Passages

• **Matthew 12:46-50 (NIV) Jesus' Mother and Brothers**

While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

He replied to him, "**Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?**" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.**"

• **Mark 3:31-35 (NIV) Jesus' Mother and Brothers**

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

"**Who are my mother and my brothers?**" he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "**Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother.**"

▼ **Jesus' Mother and Brothers**

▼ Narrative

- Jesus mother and brothers come to the house where Jesus is teaching in order to see him.
- The Mark account tells us that they were concerned that he had lost his mind because there was such a crowd that Jesus and his disciples weren't able to eat.
- When Jesus is notified he makes it clear that his family are those who hear God's Word and put it into practice.

▼ Lessons

- Put God's Word into practice.

▼ **Video**

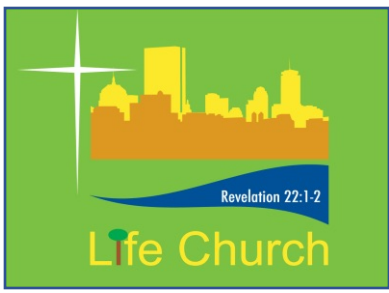
- [Sam Chand: The 4 Levels of People You Need to Understand](#) – YouTube (00:03:18)

▼ **Summary**

- Don't let the wrong priorities keep you from reproducing disciples.
- ▼ Produce disciples by persevering:
  - Build team relationships.
  - Build godly habits. Turn those habits into skills. Be effective in ministry.
- ▼ Lessons
  - Listen carefully so that you can do something with what you hear.
- ▼ Lessons
  - Put God's Word into practice.

▼ **Discussions, Q&A**

- **Review the Training Page.**
- **Where do you fall under "How To Proceed"?**
- **Do you have any questions about the Personal Preparation skills?**
- **Do you have any questions about the Life Group Preparation skills?**
- **Do you have any questions about the Harvest Preparation skills?**



# Luke 8: Good Soil, Good Listening, Good Team

Sunday August 4, 2024



# Welcome!



## Visitor Page

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We are beginning Luke 8.

First Sunday Q&A will focus on Training Agenda.



# Feeding on the Life of Jesus (1 of 2)



Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 – 8/21)
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- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)



# Feeding on the Life of Jesus (2 of 2)

For August this means:

- Read John 3 on August 3 (yesterday).
- Read John 4 on August 4 (today).
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- etc.



# Thoughts On Teams



## School Sports Teams

- I never played for any school teams.
- I was generally the last person selected for ad hoc games (except rugby at summer camp).

## SAP/Web Project Team

- In my prior work I could get the work done with my own technical skills.
- This was my first project in which I was completely dependent on others to get the work done.



# Biggest Myth About Jesus



The image shows the cover of a book or presentation titled 'The Biggest Myth About Jesus' by N.T. Wright. The cover is dark blue with white text. At the top left, it says 'VERITAS FORUM'. The title 'The Biggest Myth About Jesus' is in large white font, and the author's name 'N.T. Wright' is below it. To the right of the text is a photograph of N.T. Wright, an older man with a white beard and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. He is sitting in a chair, gesturing with his hands as if speaking. A small table in front of him holds a microphone, a water bottle, and some papers.



# Overview



- Jesus' Kingdom announcement in Luke 4 describes his mission for the rest of the Gospel of Luke.
- Jesus proceeds to choose disciples, teach how the Kingdom works, and demonstrate the Kingdom with miracles, signs, and wonders.
- The Parable of the Soils, describes how God advances the Kingdom.
- Traditional church is not structured to achieve Jesus' goal of establishing the Kingdom by making disciples who make disciples.
- We must change our assumptions and our structures.
- You need a plan! We have one! What are you going to do?



# Luke 4:14-21 NIV



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

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to proclaim good news to the poor.  
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Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



# The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me

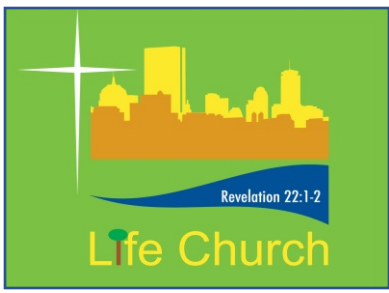
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- This is the foundation for the rest of this gospel and thus for today's passage!



# Luke 8:1-15 NIV) – The Soils (1 of 4)



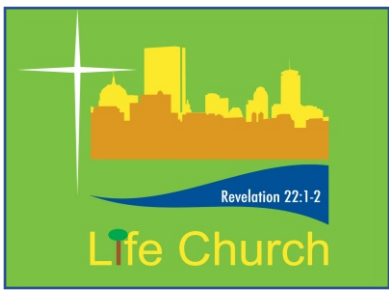
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## Luke 8:1-15 NIV – The Soils (2 of 4 )



While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: **“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”**



## Luke 8:1-15 NIV The Soils (3 of 4)



When he said this, he called out, **“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”**

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, **“The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,**

**“ ‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’**



# Luke 8:1-15 NIV The Soils (4 of 4)



“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

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But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.



# Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV) Soils – 1 of 4



That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: **“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. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”**



# Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV) Soils – 2 of 4



The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

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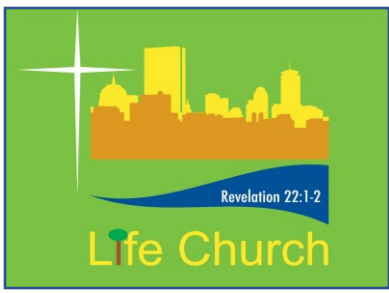
# Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV) Soils –3of 4



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and turn, and I would heal them.’

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.



# Matthew 13:1-23 (NIV) Soils – 4 of 4



“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives 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. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”



## Mark 4:1-20 (NIV) Soils - 1 of 3



Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: **“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.”**



## Mark 4:1-20 (NIV) Soils - 2 of 3



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,**

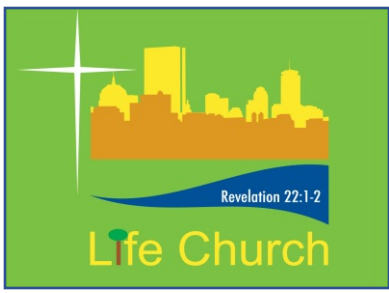
**“ ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’ ”**



# Mark 4:1-20 (NIV) Soils - 3 of 3



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.”



# Isaiah 6 (NIV) - 1 of 3



In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”



# Isaiah 6 (NIV) - 2 of 3



Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

He said, “Go and tell this people: “

‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’  
Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”



# Isaiah 6 (NIV) - 3 of 3



Then I said, “For how long, Lord?”  
And he answered:

“Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant,  
until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged,  
until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly  
forsaken.

And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste.

But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down,  
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.”

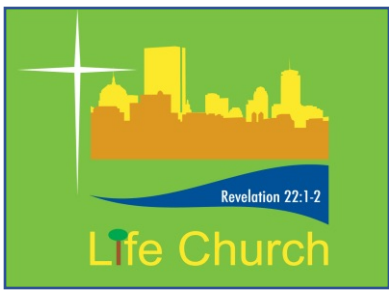


# Parable of the Soils – 1 of 3



## Narrative

- Jesus is proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God throughout the towns and villages.
- “The Kingdom of God is here”.
- Components of Jesus’ proclamation in Luke 4:14-21:
  - Good news to the poor.
  - Freedom for the prisoners.
  - Recovery of sight for the blind.
  - Set the oppressed free.
  - Proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.
- Sermon on the Mount; Sermon on the Plain
- His team includes the 12 and some women who are helping to support the team.



# Parable of the Soils – 2 of 3



## Lessons

Up until now Jesus is reported as having:

- Called his 12 Disciples.
- Healed a man with leprosy.
- Forgiven and healed a paralyzed man.
- Called Levi and eaten with tax collectors and other sinners.
- Taught about old wineskins and fasting.
- Healed on the Sabbath.
- Taught the Sermon on the Plain.
- Healed the servant of the centurion.
- Raised a widow's son.
- Pronounced forgiveness of sins over the woman who anointed him.

All of these provide evidence of the types of soil Jesus is about to describe.



# Parable of the Soils – 3 of 3

Lessons (continued)

Note

- The seed is God's Word. The fruit it produces is people.
- Seed on the path: Not saved
- Seed on rocky soil: Saved, but no root - they wither and don't bear fruit.
- Seed among thorns: Saved, wrong priorities. No fruit.
- Seed on good soil: Saved and, through perseverance, produce fruit.

Don't let the wrong priorities keep you from reproducing disciples.

Produce disciples by persevering:

- Build team relationships.
- Build godly habits. Turn those habits into skills. Be effective in ministry.

Our training page outlines the skills we need to develop and how they work together.



# Luke 8:16-18 NIV – A Lamp on a Stand



“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”



# Matthew 5:13-16 NIV – Salt and Light



“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



# Matthew 10:24-27 NIV



“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.



# Mark 4:21-25 NIV – Lamp on a Stand



He said to them, “Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Instead, don’t you put it on its stand? For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. If anyone has ears to hear, let them hear.”

“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.”



# Luke 12:1-3 NIV – Lamp on a Stand



Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: **“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”**



# Lamp on a Stand

## Narrative

- Lamps need to be displayed, not hidden.
- Shine the light you've been given. Everything will eventually be revealed.
- If your listening produces fruit, you will receive more. If not, even what you think you have will be lost.

## Lessons

- Listen carefully so that you can do something with what you hear.



# Luke 8:19-21 Jesus' Mother & Brothers



Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."



## Matthew 12:46-50 NIV



While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

He replied to him, **“Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”** Pointing to his disciples, he said, **“Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”**



## Mark 3:31-35 NIV



Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

**"Who are my mother and my brothers?"** he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, **"Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."**



# Jesus' Mother and Brothers



## Narrative

- Jesus mother and brothers come to the house where Jesus is teaching in order to see him.
- The Mark account tells us that they were concerned that he had lost his mind because there was such a crowd that Jesus and his disciples weren't able to eat.
- When Jesus is notified about this, he makes it clear that his family are those who hear God's Word and put it into practice.

## Lessons

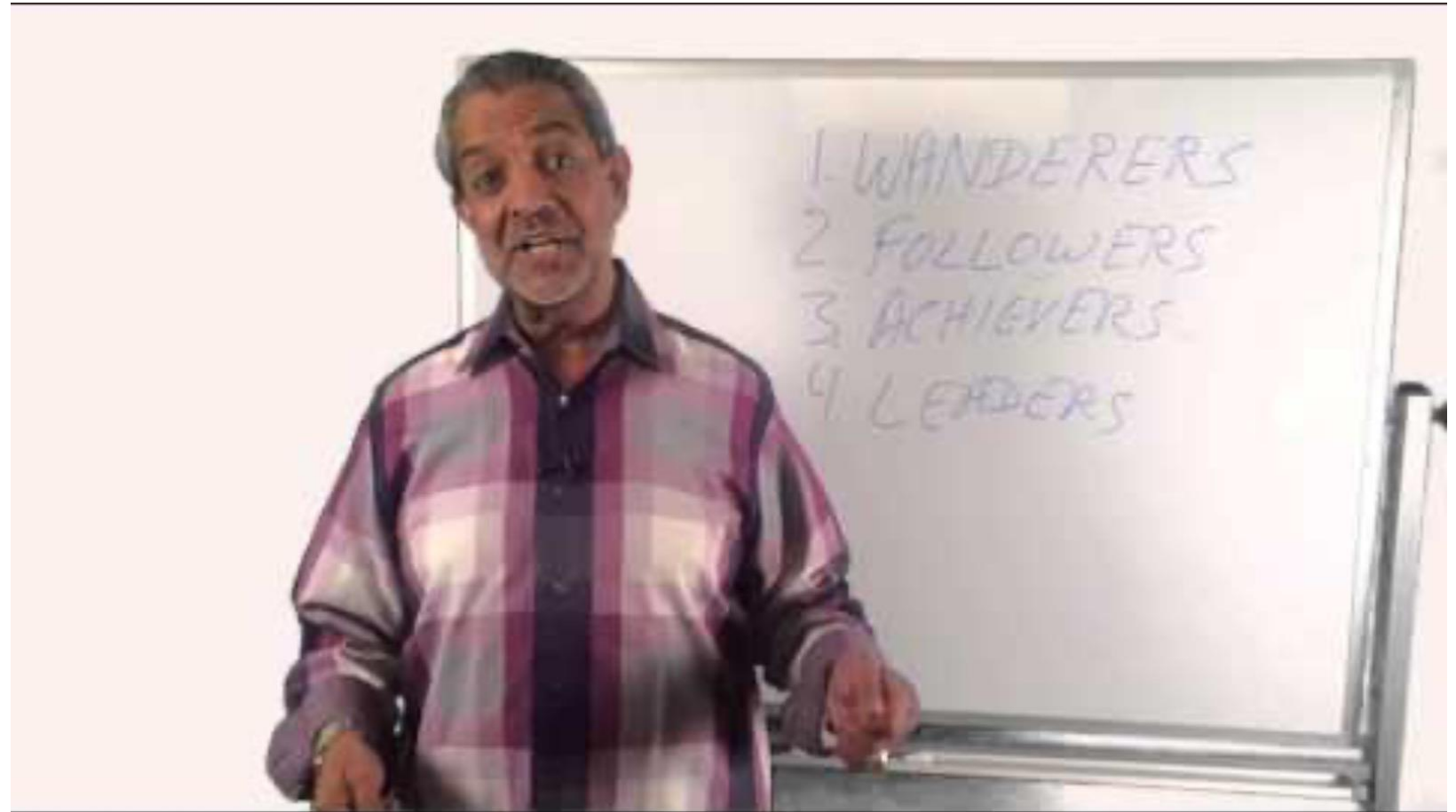
- Put God's Word into practice.



# Four Levels Of People



- 1. Wanderers
- 2. Followers
- 3. Achievers
- 4. Leaders





# Summary



Don't let the wrong priorities keep you from reproducing disciples.

- Produce disciples by persevering:
- Build team relationships.
- Build godly habits. Turn those habits into skills. Be effective in ministry.

## Lessons

- Listen carefully so that you can do something with what you hear.

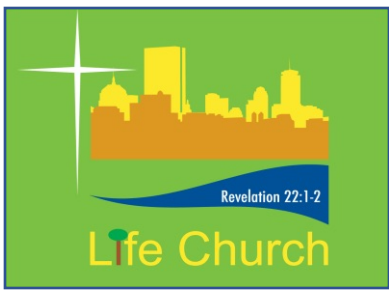
## Lessons

- Put God's Word into practice.



# Discussion

- Review the Training Page.
- Where do you fall under “How To Proceed”?
- Do you have any questions about the Personal Preparation skills?
- Do you have any questions about the Life Group Preparation skills?
- Do you have any questions about the Harvest Preparation skills?

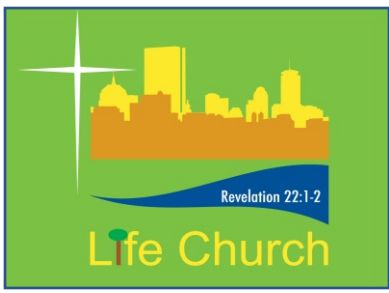


# Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service (Communion) August 4, 2024
- Sunday Service August 11, 2024
- Sunday Service August 18, 2024
- Sunday Service August 25, 2024
- Sunday Service (Communion) September 1, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/4) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 8, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/11) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 15, 2024
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/18) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 22, 2024



# Discussion



- Review the Training Page.
- Where do you fall under “How To Proceed”?
- Do you have any questions about the Personal Preparation skills?
- Do you have any questions about the Life Group Preparation skills?
- Do you have any questions about the Harvest Preparation skills?