

MONDAY 4.22.24 - Luke 8:11-15

The parable of the sower and the seed describes the different ways in which individuals respond to the gospel. The four soils represent four conditions of a person's heart. The wayside soil rejects the good news and, therefore, does not experience eternal life. The rocky and thorny soil both believe the gospel and are saved. However, the challenges and problems of life cause them to turn away, and they do not grow spiritually as Christians. They do not lose their salvation, but they do not bear fruit and mature as believers. The fourth soil—the good soil—is the person who hears the gospel, believes in Christ for eternal life, and is saved. This person makes a conscious effort to obey the truth and to advance to spiritual maturity. Pray that your Christian life would exhibit the good soil, bearing fruit for the glory of God.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 4.23.24 - 2 Peter 3:17-18

Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Salvation is a gift from God available to all for the taking. It is not a gift for which you need to work to get. It is not a gift for which you need to work to keep. It is a gift, and once accepted it cannot be taken away. This is the freedom we have in Christ. The freedom to service Christ, not out of a need to earn our salvation or out of a sense of obligation to keep it, but out of love for Christ in response to His love for us. May you be in service for Christ today, not out of a sense of debt or obligation, but out of out of love for the one who willing gave His life to save you. Further, may His love not only for you, but for the whole world, motivate you to share this love with everyone you meet.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 4.24.24 - John 5:1-16

Jesus met a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem on the Sabbath day. The Jewish people did not rejoice that the man was miraculously healed. Rather, they were infuriated because Jesus violated their Sabbath laws. We must keep legalism from gaining a foothold in our lives and churches. To oppose legalism, truth must emerge. Paul confronted legalism, refusing to look the other way (Gal. 2:14, 4:16). To combat legalism, conviction must be employed. This might require taking a stand against legalistic traditions that have no foundation in the Word of God. To overcome legalism, grace must be embraced. When we take hold of grace, the chains of legalism fall off, and we're set free. Paul proclaimed, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Gal. 5:1).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 4.25.24 - Isaiah 29:13

In context, today's scripture is God's rebuke to Israel for their unwillingness to love and obey Him and His commandments. The words of the verse describe people who at best know the formalities that should be followed in their religion. They attend worship a couple times a week, sing the hymns, give some money every time the plate is passed, volunteer to sing in the choir or participate in the kids' or youth programs, they may even chaperone an overnight kids' event. But at home and work, the Lord's Words are not the meditation of their hearts.

It is so important that we do not behave as these people. We know that our heart's fervor drops to a simmer on occasion, and we continue to sin. So did King David's, yet he is a man after God's own heart. We want to be like that, too. May God's word be the meditation of our hearts and we obey the Spirit of His Word.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 4.26.24. - Proverbs 4:23-27

Praise God we have been saved by faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins! We don't have to earn our way into heaven (Eph. 2:8). But now that we are saved, we show our love for the Lord by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). But how do we do so without becoming legalistic? Proverbs 4:26-27 echo the familiar command in Proverbs 3:6 ". . . in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Jesus promised that His yoke is easy and His burden light (Matt. 11:29-30). We are not tasked with hundreds of rules to follow so that we seem "holy" to the world. Instead, we have the Holy Spirit in our lives to guide in knowing what is right and convicting us when we stray (Gal. 5:16-26). Further, when we do fall short, we are able to confess our sins and be forgiven (I John 1:9). Thank you, Lord.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** **SPRING QUARTER** - March 3rd - May 26th
LOCATION: B8-10 with Dave Decamp
Explore the Bible - Genesis 20-50.
LOCATION: B11 with Lane Kemler
Bible Studies for Life - "It's All About Jesus"
Beginning April 14th "Being an Authentic Church"
LOCATION: B1-2 with Joel Day - Beginning April 14
"When Your Way Isn't Working" by Kyle Idleman

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs.
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs.
- Adults** Dive Deep with Doug
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 SPRING SMALL GROUPS

- Women's THURSDAY MORNING STUDY** - Began March 14th.
A study on Isaiah by Melissa Spoelstra
with Brenda Ross - at 9:00am in B8-10.
- Women's THURSDAY EVENING STUDY** - Began March 14th
6:30pm at Kulp UMC, Exodus 19–40 with Elizabeth Williams.
- Men's Bible Study** - Begins April 16th at 6:30pm in the YAC.
Wild at Heart by John Eldredge with Vince DiLoretto

EVENING GROUP STUDY

- Wednesday Study** - Began April 3rd - at 6:30pm in B8-10.
Body of Proof by Jeremiah Johnston - with Barry Wills
- Wednesday Study** - Begins May 1st - at 6:30pm in B8-10.
"Contagious Faith" by Mark Mittelberg - with Barry Wills
Learn to share the Good News of Jesus effectively.

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES, USE THE CONNECT CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU

John 4:43-54 **Distance Makes No Difference**


The Gospel of John records miracles that Jesus performed as signs. The purpose of these signs is to promote belief in Jesus for eternal life. John's purpose statement is found in 20:30-31: "*Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*"

John records the miraculous signs that Jesus performed so that his readers will place their trust in Jesus for eternal life. There are eight miraculous signs that John records in this book. They are ...

- Changing Water into Wine—chapter 2
- Healing the Nobleman's Son—chapter 4
- Healing the Lame Man—chapter 5
- Feeding of the 5,000—chapter 6
- Walking on Water—chapter 6
- Healing a Man Born Blind—chapter 9
- Raising Lazarus from the Dead—chapter 11
- Jesus Rising from the Dead—chapter 20

Application—Lessons for Parents and Grandparents

1. Don't be too _____ to admit your _____
 - (v 47)
2. Don't be too _____ to know your _____
 - (v 47)
3. Don't be too _____ to believe _____
 - (vv 50, 53)
4. Don't be too _____ to enjoy your _____
 - (v 51)

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 22nd - April 26th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "Distance Makes No Difference" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 28th, "A Deadly Enemy in the Church" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:31