



PERSONAL REFLECTION

READ Matthew 8:18-22, 12:22-24, 19:16-22, & 26:14-16. What connections do you see to the four soils parable? Think of an area where you struggle in life, and how Jesus by His Holy Spirit might be speaking to you about that area. What might your reaction reveal about something you deeply love, fear, value, or want to protect? How is your answer different than it was five years ago? How would you like to see yourself answer that 5 years from now?

PRAYER ITEMS:

WEEKLY BIBLE READING PLAN

From the READ SCRIPTURE app, Available for both Android and Apple devices.

In the **READ SCRIPTURE** app, be sure to set your start date for January 1, 2026 in the app settings, and follow along with us!

September 27: Luke 6-7 | Psalm 115

September 28: Luke 8-9 | Psalm 116

September 29: Luke 10-11 | Psalm 117

September 30: Luke 12=13 | Psalm 118

October 1: Luke 14-16 | Psalm 119: 1-32

October 2: Luke 17-18 | Psalm 119: 33-64

October 3: Luke 19-20 | Psalm 119: 65-96

WALKING with JESUS

Matthew 13:1-23 | **PARABLE OF PARABLES**
Pastor Justin Carruthers | September 27, 2026

PARABLES - THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. A story that uses something _____ to explain the _____
2. They illustrate a _____ about the _____ & the Christian life.
3. Their primary purpose is to both _____ and _____

THE PRINCIPLE

- The condition of my _____ will determine the direction of my _____

LESSONS FROM THE DIRT

1. The hard soil = a _____ heart:
“God’s work in my life depends on my spiritual _____ which leads to _____”
2. Shallow/rocky soil = a _____ heart
“God’s work in my life must be a personal commitment to _____!”
3. Weedy soil = a _____ heart
“God’s work in my life must be the _____”
4. Good soil = a humble, _____ heart
“God’s work in my life must be an _____”

THE THREE STEPS TO A NEW LIFE

- _____, _____, _____



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LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What was something that happened today that made you smile and/or laugh?
2. As we begin this Life Group season, what are you most looking forward to?

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Jesus says the good soil produces a fruitful life. What are some "good things" in your life, like family, work, hobbies, relationships, success, or comforts, that could slowly become competitors for your allegiance to God? What would it look like this week to put Jesus first in that particular area?

READ SCRIPTURE

READ Matthew 13:1-23

1. How does this passage highlight God's presence in our world?
2. What does this passage say about our broken human condition?
3. How does this passage call me to make change in my life?

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3, 2026 | WEEK #1

DIGGING DEEPER

1. READ Matthew 13:9. As Jesus speaks, and as His disciples share His message, those who have ears, that is, everyone, will hear. How did you first respond to Jesus' invitation for you to follow and serve Him? What do you remember feeling in your mind, heart, and soul?

- **READ John 10:2.** In this season of your life, in whatever place you find yourself, what is it looking like for you to follow His voice today?

2. READ Matthew 13:10-16. Skim through Matthew 11-12 and look for how different people are encountering the same Jesus and yet respond differently. Can you identify which "soil" relates to the different responses?

- **READ Matthew 12:34-35 & Luke 2:34-35.** In the four soils parable, it's the same farmer, same seed, yet different outcome. What does our response to Jesus reveal about what is going on in our heart?

3. READ Matthew 13:19-22. Jesus describes people who hear the Word, but it doesn't ultimately take root in their lives. What do you think is the difference between simply hearing God's Word, and truly receiving it?

- **READ John 15:1-5.** Imagine Jesus is inviting you to use the four soils to examine the posture of your own heart. Where do you see evidence of God's Word growing in you? Where would you like Him to continue His good work?

TAKING IT HOME

READ Matthew 13:23. What does it mean to you that this parable doesn't end with a barren field, but with a plentiful harvest? What does that tell us about God's intentions with us? Where is the Lord calling you to respond to Him?