



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Ice Breaker

Describe the kind of student you were in school or throughout your career. Were you a good student? A bad student? Did you ever attribute your success to a good teacher, or your failure to a bad teacher? Explain.

February 23, 2020
Parable of the Four Soils
(Sower)
FUSED in Luke

Opening Prayer

Discussion

1. In this week's text, you'll notice that Jesus tells a large crowd of people a parable, or a short story designed to teach a point. In this parable, Jesus makes mention of a farmer scattering seed in various places, but as Michael pointed out, after the very first sentence, Jesus never mentions the farmer again. From Jesus' perspective, the success of growth has less to do with the farmer and more to do with the soil. Why do you think that might be? And how does that relate to teachers you've had growing up or in your career?
2. **Read Luke 8:4-15 together as a group.** At the conclusion of Jesus' parable to the crowd, we are told Jesus called out, "**He who has ears, let him hear!**" This comment sets the tone for the rest of the passage. How would you describe the difference between "hearing" and "listening" to somebody?
3. If Jesus' parable confused you, you're not alone. A smaller group of Jesus' followers heard his teaching and asked him to explain it in verse 9, which Jesus does just for them, specifically. Jesus equates the seed with the "word of God," but notice what Jesus says about the four kinds of soil: each reflects a person who "hears" the Word, but has a different response to it. As you consider your life, which of these four has described your approach to Jesus' teaching in the past? Which best describes it today? Why?
4. As Michael alluded to, everyone who reads this parable wants to consider themselves to be the seed on good soil. Yet Jesus offers something of a rubric to determine if you are: Do you retain the Word, and more importantly, do you "produce a crop?" A seed that grows, but never reproduces itself is no better than the seed that gets eaten by birds. But the seed that grows into a plant that produces even more seeds is the kind of seed Jesus is talking about. In a moment of honesty, do you believe you are the seed on good soil?
 - a. Focus on the word "persevering" in v. 15. It's a reminder that reproducing seed is a process that doesn't happen instantaneously, but over time and with the grace of God. What do you think the difference is between the seed among the thorns, and the persevering seed on good soil?
5. Read Luke 8:16-18 together as a group. You'll notice that Jesus does not stop speaking here and it's a clue that what Jesus says next is part of what he said previously. Why do you think Jesus transitions from seed on soil, to lamps that are hidden?
6. Some of Jesus' final words here were, "**Therefore consider carefully how you listen.**" It's entirely possible to know God's Word, but never put it into action in your life. You may feel smart, you may feel like you know a lot of stuff, and you can still put up barriers to change. In what ways have you been resistant to letting God's Word change you? What are you hearing, but not listening to in your walk with God?
7. The Parable of the Sower reminds us that we can fool ourselves into being comfortable with growth. "Am I growing? Yes. Then I'm good!" Jesus' words remind us that sprouting which ends in withering is still death. The goal is sprouting that produces more and more. Be uncomfortable. What do you think this looks like for your life?

Closing Prayer