May 3 Sermon Reflection and Reading Guide

Key Points to reflect on from today's service: Mark 4:1-20

- Use this parable as a mirror to look at your own heart…which type of soil is the best picture of your heart?
- Parables were a huge part of Jesus' teaching ministry. Why? Jesus speaks in parables so that those who are paying attention will want to know more whereas those who aren't really listening will have even less understanding. The parables act as further illumination regarding the Kingdom of God for those who listen and act as judgment on those who reject the message of Jesus.
- The 4 types of soil represent 4 types of hearts: the indifferent heart, the superficial heart, the distracted heart and the receptive heart. Take a moment to describe each kind of soil. Which one best describes your heart?
- How can you be more intentional to hear and respond to God's Word in your life?
- How does this parable encourage you in your ministry?
- This parable describes several important truths about the Kingdom of God: don't be deceived by the smallness of its beginning; it will grow huge. Do not be deceived by the rejection of Jesus; Jesus is reigning over the world. The Kingdom grows and expands through the Word of God.
- Everything hangs on how well you listen to God's Word.

Daily Bible Reading for this Week
5/4: Luke 22
5/5: Luke 23
5/6: Luke 24
5/7: John 1
5/8: John 2

For Group Leaders and Group Discussion
Use zoom to connect with group members. The first 40 meetings are free. There is a need to use this time wisely. So divide your time into three increments:
- Check in: ask each person to tell the group how they are doing and how the group can pray for them.
- Discuss sermon and reading: what has God been teaching you through His Word and the teaching from Sunday? How can you apply what you are reading? How are you sharing the love of Jesus with others or how can you share the love of Jesus with others this week?

- Read one of the chapters from this past week. From that passage ask: what does the text say (make as many observations as you can)? What does it mean? How can you/we apply it?