



STEPS

Week 2

Seed and Soil

Sermon Notes

Mark 4:1-9

Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants, so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

The Seed

- Was Sowed Everywhere
- Was Sowed Generously
- The Seed is the word

1. The Wayside Soil (The Hard Hearted)

- This soil needs to be cultivated
- The hard-hearted need to ask God to soften their hearts
- The birds of the air snatch away the seed (Satan)
- To minister to these people, we must have patience and take chances

2. The Rocky Soil

Ephesians 1:4-8

- Shallow soil with shallow growth
- Following Jesus is not emotional, we must be anchored to Christ
- Discipleship is the process of removing the rocks and cultivating your life

3. The Thorny Soil

Colossians 2:7

- The thorns that grow and choke out the plants are the cares of this world
- Don't get stuck holding the things of the world that God wants to heal.

4. The Good Soil

Psalms 1:1-3

- The good soil is cultivated, watered, and ready.
- The plants of the good soil grow and produce fruit many times over.

Ask yourself how your soil is, how fruitful you want to be, and what you need to give to God to be fruitful.

Questions to Consider

What life experiences tend to "compact" our hearts and make us hard toward God?

What does "shallow roots equal no fruit" mean?

Which type of soil best describes your spiritual life right now? (Be honest - this is a safe space)

What rocks or thorns are still competing for space in your heart and keeping your roots shallow?

Pastor Cody said, "We don't cause the seed to grow, but we can create an environment for it to grow in." What does this mean practically?

Application

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

1) For Everyone:

Soil Inventory: Set aside 30 minutes this week to ask the Holy Spirit: "Show me the hard, dislocated, and crooked places in my heart." Write down what He reveals.

2) For Those in Chair 2:

Repentance vs. Forgiveness: Identify one ongoing sin issue. Instead of just asking forgiveness again, ask God to change your mind and heart toward it (true repentance).

Deal with a Rock: Identify one area where you're defensive instead of grateful. Confess it and ask God to remove that rock.

3) For Those Ready for Chair 3:

The Invitation: Invite one person to Easter at Dayspring (or another church event). Don't pick winners and losers - just invite.

The Agitator Prayer: Choose 3 people who don't know Jesus. Pray daily: "Lord, send an agitator into their life. Break up the hard ground. If I'm an agitator, use me."

4) For Everyone:

Global Perspective: Research and pray for the persecuted church (Iran, China, etc.). Let their sacrifice put your struggles in perspective.

★ Continue in your commitments to fasting and praying for salvation (details at dayspring.tv/fast).

Pray for one another