

GROUP QUESTIONS: Parables Wk 3 - w/ Pastor Mindy

1. How are you showing up to this space tonight? Tell us in weather terms (ie. stormy, partly sunny, etc)

2. Take a minute to summarize with your group the main point(s) of the message from Sunday and/or briefly share what stood out to you the most.

3. Based on the parable of the sower and the seed, found in Matthew 13, Mindy suggested that we all are exposed to the seeds - the way of God, God's kingdom wisdom. She asked us to ponder what it might mean if the words about God's kingdom are *within* all of humanity.

How does this impact how you see your neighbor? Or how you relate with others you disagree with?

Could this possibly give us common ground to work from? Could we love one another better if we understood that the way of the kingdom has been sewn into all of our lives?

4. Mindy pointed out that in the parable the seeds go into the soil, burrow in and sprout in some way. She asked us to consider what it might mean if the seed or the word about the kingdom will in some way do that in us. The seeds will have movement and growth and impact on all of us. If the seed is stirring in all of us what might be some ways it is showing up in your world?

Do you think this idea has the power to combat the temptation to buy into us vs them mentality? If so, how might that work in your life?

5. Mindy suggested that according to the parable our main role is to be hospitable soil. What do you think that might mean for you?

6. Howard Thurman says, " It's very interesting. That the process of growth and development and unfolding is an inscrutable process. What does that mean? As [to] the kingdom of God, the only thing that I am responsible for doing, [Jesus] seems to suggest, is to be sure that to the limit of my power I do the elemental cooperation; I see that I do not block the process. That I lay bare my mind and will and heart to what seems to me to be the truth of God, and that I follow the light that I have."

What stands out to you about this quote?

7. Mindy said that change starts within us before it can be carried out outside of us. Howard Thurman used to say,, “true social change must be grounded in spiritual experience and personal transformation.”

How does that land for you? Are you able to embrace the mystery in the “inscrutable process” of growth? How does this idea challenge you? What do you like or dislike about it?