



ONLINE

Weekly Bible Study
Wednesday, November 13,
2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

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Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Introduction: The Parable of the Sower is one of the more well-known parables. It describes for us four types of soil that a farmer spread seed on. The seed acted different on each soil, sometimes growing quickly, but without deep roots, sometimes growing among weeds and being choked out, and in the fertile soil, the seed took root, was well nourished and thrived, bearing tremendous fruit. This parable is quite easily decoded then as a metaphor for our heart, our spirit, our mind—where God's word is planted and has an opportunity to grow and bear fruit. Ah but which soil are we? Can we change the soil that is within us? What if we neglect a portion of our heart while another portion of our heart is more receptive? Can I contain all the soils at once? Now you begin to discover the power of parables. They can be easy, or complicated, or both simultaneously. Sitting with parables and reading over and over again leads to discernment, and sometimes we discern different meanings each time we come back to a parable.

Read: Mark 4:1-9 and also the explanation in Mark 4:10-20

Open your Bible and read through the passage. Once you have read through this passage, take three large deep breaths, read the passage a second time. Take note of what words jump out at you. What words do you need to look up for clarity of definition. Take three large deep breaths again. Read the passage one more time.

Seek:

Take a moment to review the parable again for the four types of soil. Can you identify times when you were one particular type of soil versus another type?

Which type of soil do you more consistently identify yourself with?

What kind of "faith-fruit" do you expect yourself to be growing for God's kingdom?

Pray

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood. Where my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way. Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord let my heart be good soil. Amen