

Teaching Notes

Series: Next Steps

Week 3

What is discipleship: I am _____ the Bible *and* _____ what I learn in the process of _____ new disciples.

NLT James 1:25 But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law-- the law that sets you free-- and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

NLT James 2:26 Just as the body is dead without a spirit, so also faith is dead without good deeds.

The scriptures never separate _____ from _____.

Mark 4:1-20 (NLT) ¹ 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. ² He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴ As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. ⁸ 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!" ⁹ Then he said, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." ¹⁰ Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant. ...

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?" ¹⁴ The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

My next step? Radical _____.

¹⁶ The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

My next step? Radical _____.

¹⁸ The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

My next step? Radical _____.

²⁰ And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

My next step? Radical _____.

NLT Colossians 3:16a "Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise. Use his words to teach and counsel each other."

What kind of soil am I? More importantly... what kind of soil do I _____ to be?

What's my next step?