

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

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "If you can't understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?" <sup>14</sup> The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others. <sup>15</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>16</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>18</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>20</sup> 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?**