

Harvest Good Soil

Our destiny in Jesus is abundant harvest (Mark 4:2-9). In the Parable of the Soils, Jesus teaches us that the destiny of our lives is not predetermined. Instead, we get to choose what kind of soil we are (e.g. hard like a path, rocky without deep roots, soil full of weeds, or good soil). If we choose to be good soil, then God can produce an incredible harvest both *in* us and *through* us. Our focus should not be on the harvest, but rather on being good soil and sowing seeds. God is the one who brings growth and harvest.

GETTING STARTED

Who has personally sown into you and pointed you towards Jesus? What did they do that eventually produced a harvest in you?

GO DEEPER

1. In Mark 4:2-9 (Parable of the Soils), who is the sower, what is the seed, and what do the different kind of soils represent? What is the key idea in this parable that Jesus wants us to really hear (vs. 9)?
2. From 1 Corinthians 3:6, what does it look like to plant spiritual seeds or to water them? Why is the idea that God causes seeds to grow significant (in light of Jesus' parable in Mark 4:2-9), and why is it dangerous for us to assume that responsibility?
3. In Galatians 6:7-9, Paul makes the point clear that a person reaps what they sow. Why do you think believers expect a harvest where no seeds have been sown? Why is it tempting to err towards either no action (where we make God responsible for sowing seeds and producing the harvest) or towards all action (where we assume responsibility for both sowing seeds and producing the harvest)?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. From Mark 4:2-9, what kind of soil are you right now, and why? What do you think needs to change in you so that you become or remain good soil?
2. What fruit or abundant harvest do you think God wants to produce in you?
3. How does God want to not only work *in* you but *through* you to plant or water seeds in those around you? Who might God be highlighting in your sphere of influence that you are called to BLESS? (See beltway.org/bless for more details.)

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to purposefully pray that you become or remain good soil. Ask God to not only work *in* you but *through* you as good soil. Ask Him who you are to BLESS this week through intentional relationship.

BLESS

Who in your sphere of influence can you invite to eat with you at some point this week, just to foster relationship and to demonstrate how much you desire to honor and bless them? Take steps today to initiate communication and to get that meal lined up.