

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

January 27, 2019

How Great Is Our God!

LUKE

Luke 8:4-8

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

⁴When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.” As he said this, he called out, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” **Luke 8:4-8**

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Jesus often taught in parables, which were intended to guide his listeners to a meaning beneath the surface, rather than being received as simply beautiful, descriptive stories. For those willing to be taught, God’s word and the kingdom of heaven were made clearer. In this parable, the seed represents the word of God; the sower is Jesus; and our hearts represent the four different types of soil. Jesus tells a story of a sower who scattered seeds on four different types of soil.

Consider and discuss the four different types of soil, and how your own heart may have cycled through these phases throughout your life so far:

1. *Soil along the path: Seed cannot grow in shallow soil. Though we may hear the word of God, our hearts are hardened and we are not willing to accept it.*
2. *Soil on rocky ground: Seed begins to grow, however it cannot grow deep roots and withers in the sun. Our hearts show interest and awareness to the word of God, but when trouble comes, our faith is not strong enough to stand.*
3. *Soil with thorns: Seed begins to grow, but thorns overtake it and choke it out. We may receive the gospel, but allow our trust in worldly things to choke the seed.*
4. *Good soil: Allows the seed to plant deep, grow strong, and produce fruit. We receive and understand the word of God, and seek to obey Him in all that we do.*

The state of our heart is key to receiving the Gospel and being formed in order to be sent out to be disciples in Austin and beyond. As Thomas said, Covenant is not the destination, it is merely the “airport,” where growth and formation take place.

What would it look like for you to live a more integrated life, with your work and faith?

What specific areas of spiritual formation might you need to focus on this year?

How does knowing that we exist for engagement beyond the walls of Covenant encourage and inspire you?

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word, and the assurance that if we are willing, You will produce in us more fruit that we can ever imagine. Help us to look to the future not with fear or anxiety, but with great hope and expectation for what you can equip us to do outside the walls of Covenant. Amen