

For Further Study:

"Parables in the Eye of the Storm" by Stanley Ellisen

"The Parables of Jesus" by William Barclay

"NIV Harmony of the Four Gospels" by Orville Daniel

Keys to Interpreting Parables:

1. Discover the question behind the parable
2. Distill the central point of the parable

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like the parables of Jesus, or do you find them hard to understand?
2. Pastor Eric suggested two legitimate applications of this parable:
 - Consider the condition of the soil of your heart
 - Consolation and encouragement for mixed results to ministry
 (Which of the two was more applicable to your life? Why?)
3. If you could have asked Jesus a question about this message, what would it be?
4. What encouragement do you find in Jesus' parable?
5. How can we pray for you as you apply these lessons to your life?

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER "SOIL"

Luke 8:1-15

1. Jesus taught *many* kinds of people (1-4)

- a. He taught a diverse group of twelve disciples
- b. He taught women
- c. He taught a diverse crowd from several communities

2. Jesus taught with *many* kinds of methods (4, 9-10)

- a. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning
- b. Jesus used parables to teach about the kingdom of God
- c. Jesus used parables in fulfillment of prophecy
- d. Jesus used parables to reveal truth to the receptive
- e. Jesus used parables to conceal truth from the unresponsive

3. Jesus taught that there were *many* kinds of responses (5-8, 11-15)

- a. The trampled soil represents no growth
- b. The rocky soil represents false growth
- c. The thorny soil represents small growth
- d. The good soil represents productive growth

4. Jesus taught that *only one* person is accountable to respond (8)