

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 8:1-15.
2. At the beginning of this week's sermon, Pastor Aaron suggested that the sower of this parable could be us. Think about times that you have scattered the seed of the word of God and learned what kinds of soil your hearers were. Does any person or event stand out to you during this time of scattering?

Getting into the Word

3. In our passage it says that many women (the Greek for "many others" indicates all females) accompanied and supported Jesus and the Twelve. Read the Scripture given for each woman below and think of some reasons why the culture would consider it outrageous or scandalous for Jesus to have such a woman following or supporting His ministry:
 - a. Mary Magdalene, Luke 8:2
 - b. Joanna, Luke 8:3
 - c. Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus, Luke 7:36-39 (cf. John 11:2)
 - d. The Samaritan woman at the well, John 4:39
4. Jesus often taught in parables so that those who really wanted to understand would have to come to Him to learn more, while those who were not interested would continue to be blind. In addition, Jesus spoke in parables to fulfill prophecy as Matthew 13:34-35 explains.

Turn to Psalm 78:1-4 where this prophecy was made. Read this passage carefully and write down any thoughts on what it reveals about the parables of Jesus: what are they like? what are their purpose? who are they for?

Crossroads Covenant Church
Sermon-based Small Groups worksheet (*continued*)
for the week of May 26, 2019

5. Compare the explanation given for each type of soil in Luke 8:9-15 with the explanation given in the parallel account Matthew 13:18-23. How does the phrasing in each differ and complement the other?

Why might Luke have chosen certain terminology for his Gentile audience while Matthew used other phrases for his Jewish audience?

6. Read from 2 Corinthians 9:6-14, where we have the analogy of sowing in a discussion on giving. Giving includes not only finances but also time, wisdom, encouragement, teaching, and other forms of ministering between one another. How does this Scripture from Paul encourage you to become the sower of Jesus' parable in Luke 8?

Digging Deeper

7. Consider the first three types of soil in this parable, the ones which did not bring forth a multiplication of fruit. Were you ever one of these types of soil, perhaps before your salvation or as a young believer? Reflect on how God gradually "tilled" the soil of your heart to be receptive to the word and bear fruit for Him.

How can you use this time before you were fruitful as a testimony or encouragement for others when you go forth and sow seed on the soil of others?