



REPLENISHED – Soil Matters 7th February 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. Jesus was Jewish, speaking in a Jewish context to Jewish people. That's why He used Parables. When He came, He did not invent a new religion called Christianity, He was and stayed Jewish. And so, understanding that helps us to understand Him.
2. Some descriptions of parables:
 - Outward story - inward reality that captures the heart with imagination.
 - An earthly story - heavenly meaning.

Engage:

3. Read [Luke 8:5-15](#)
4. What is Jesus doing in this scripture?

Parables are used to shut out those who do not want to listen.

Mark Wiltshire

- Only those who are serious about following Jesus and learning from Him are going to put the effort in to really think about what He is saying.

The parables are to reveal truth to spiritual seekers and to those who will hear and apply it.

Brian Greenaway

5. Read [Isaiah 6:9-10](#) (*Jesus quotes this verse in Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8*)
6. What does Isaiah 6:9-10 mean?
7. (Luke 8:5-15) The Parable of the Sower is foundational in that it identifies those who respond appropriately to Jesus teaching – by doing it.
 - The question is: Who is sincere in wanting to follow the rabbi from Nazareth and who is not? Ultimately it transports us to a Hebraic worldview – it's irrelevant what you say you believe – where is the evidence?

- What Jesus is saying is this, they will hear me, but they are not willing to change their ways. He was looking for genuine disciples who were going to put His message into practice.
- 8. What does it mean to properly identify with God?
- 9. Why do so many of us find our Christian walks lacking?
- 10. In the Parables we find stories of people in sometimes very ordinary situations, but they are used to convey an important truth. And most of all we realise that even though they do not explicitly ask for one – they bring us to a decision point:
 - Are you a sheep or a goat?
 - Are you the wise or foolish builder?
 - What did you do with your talents?
 - Are you shining your lamp?
 - Have you lost your saltiness?
- 11. The Sower (or the hearers) – There are 3 elements: The sower, the seed and the soil.
 - The sower – is sowing seed.
 - The seed – is barley or wheat.
 - The seed in Mark and Matthew is the word of the Kingdom and in Luke it is the Word of God.
- 12. What is the major focus of this parable?
- 13. The sower and the seed remain the same, but it is the variation of the grounds condition that dictates the harvest.

Framework:

- 14. Luke's Gospel tells us the soil is the heart:
 - Verse 12 - 'the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts'
 - Verse 13 - 'who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away', the heart is discouraged.
 - Verse 14 - 'are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life'. That is a heart issue – 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.
 - Verse 15 - 'having heard the word with a noble and good heart keep it and bear fruit with patience'.
- 15. If the hearer receives the word with a good heart and puts it into practise, what is the result?
- 16. What does someone with a good heart do?
- 17. What does the Parable of the Sower call on us to do?
- 18. How do you see yourself in this Parable?
 - Luke 8:12 - '*the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts*'. We can see how in our walk, our hearts can be hard, circumstances can cause us to turn our back on the things of God. One of the greatest dangers of the believer is to not be teachable, pride comes and we think we know so much. Our hearts become hard like the path, unable to receive the Word of God, or bitterness gets in and we stop listening to God. It's then easy for satan to just come and take away that which is good for us.
 - Luke 8:13 - '*who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away*', the heart is discouraged.

19. What about those who fall away under temptation which can also mean trials, it does happen? Read [2 Cor 4:16-17](#)
- Luke 8:14 - *'are choked with cares (anxieties), riches, and pleasures of life'*. That is a heart issue – For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Something else replaces Jesus, replaces a love for His word, a person, a job, money, etc. This heart has no focus on the right priorities. We're not saying that it's easy, it's constant work for us to ensure this does not happen.
20. How do we replenish our hearts?
- Make a decision. To be a hearer but also a doer. When God speaks to you from His Word, write it down, spend time praying and thinking about it and make a choice to do it. Let's attach ourselves to Jesus again. It won't happen overnight; good soil takes a while to develop.
 - The book of Hosea is an emotional and powerful book that talks of God's love for unfaithful Israel. All the time it shows how God pursues His people. Read [Hosea 10:12](#)
 - See the picture? See the action and the result. Do the right things, demonstrate mercy, break up that hard ground in our hearts and seek Him. And do it until He comes and rains righteousness on you. Until the Holy Spirit comes and softens our hearts, making it good soil to receive the Word of God.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, my prayer today is simple but important. Please help me to have a good and noble heart. In Jesus Name Amen.