



LET'S VISIT

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THE PARABLE OF THE HEARTS

The stories that Jesus told to teach lessons are referred to as the parables. There is a parable recorded in Luke 8:4-15 where Jesus tells us that a sower went out to sow his seed. He tells us that some fell by the way side, some fell upon a rock, some fell among thorns and some fell on good ground. However, though this is commonly called the parable of the sower, Jesus is not putting the emphasis on the man who is sowing the seed, nor is he putting the emphasis on the seed that is being sown. Jesus is rather putting emphasis on the kind of soil the seed falls on.

As with so many lessons that Jesus taught, there were those gathered that day upon whom this parable was wasted. There were those who may have heard Jesus speak with their minds wandering fruitlessly. There were those who possibly heard it with lips curled in scorn at this teacher and his homespun stories. Some no doubt swaggered away that day commenting on the fanaticism of the preacher. Some of those who listened might have done so with great enjoyment and even nodded approval, yet when it was over they went on living as they had lived before they heard the lesson. The four kinds of soil Jesus talks about represent the four kinds of hearers or hearts there are who hear the word of God.

The seed on the wayside represents the cold, the cynical and the indifferent. This represents those hearts without spiritual capacity. When the seed of the gospel is sown into a heart without spiritual capacity, it fails to penetrate the intellect. It is left on the surface. When the seed of the gospel does not penetrate the heart, but is left on the surface, there is no life and no spirituality.

The seed sown on the rocky ground represents those who are shallow of heart. These are those who are moved by sentiment and not by intellect. Jesus tells us that on this rocky ground, the word finds a hiding place in shallow soil and it does not take root. In those with a shallow heart, the word of God is given only a passing interest. In time of temptation or persecution these fall away. The Galatians were of this type of soil. In fact, Paul writes that he marvels they were so soon removed from Christ by another doctrine in Galatians 1:6.

When Jesus next speaks of the thorny ground, he is talking about those whose hearts are double minded. These are hearts with mixed motives. Hearts where the word finds a hiding place and life springs forth. However, it is subjected to self indulgent influences and there is life but no fruit to perfection.

Jesus closed the parable of the hearts by talking of the seed that falls into good and honest hearts. The result is life and fruit in abundance. You see, the harvest does not altogether depend on the faithfulness of the sower, nor the quality of the seed, but also on the nature of the soil. People fail in life for three primary reasons Jesus says. They fail because of indifference, shallowness or double mindedness. In order for us to succeed in life, we must receive the

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 - Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



This Little Light Of Mine

**For The Pantry. . .
May 4 – Baby Food or Baby Cereal**

Offering – April 27, 2025 . . \$ 2,573.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

The Parable Of The Hearts – Continued from page 1

word of God, meditate upon it and exercise patience in living the Christian life. What we must do is examine our hearts and the way that we receive the word of God. We must be certain that our hearts are open to God as he speaks to us through his word and we are ready to obey what He has commanded us to do to live the kind of Life God wants us to live.

Tp

What A Great Weekend!

This past weekend was a great weekend to the Glory of God for us as a congregation. We had a great singing on Friday night and some powerful messages from the word of God brought to us by Brother Phil Sanders on Saturday night and Sunday Morning.

I want to personally thank every one who helped to make this weekend the success that it was. So many of you participated in helping to make the fellowship on Friday night a success by helping to provide the refreshments for our fellowship. So, whether you brought refreshments and we appreciate that so very much.

We also had a wonderful time of fellowship with our covered dish luncheon on Sunday and all who

stayed enjoyed a great meal and time of fellowship. I want to especially give a shout out and a special word of appreciation to the ladies on the hospitality committee for both the Friday Night refreshments and the Sunday covered dish luncheon. Marsha Bounds, Sarah Fletcher and Melonia Molloy spent a couple of hours after everyone left on Friday cleaning up and getting ready for the Sunday luncheon and then stayed and cleaned up on Sunday afternoon. We appreciate you and your efforts so very much.

We had a great and wonderful weekend because so many participated in many ways and we are grateful for your efforts and commitment.

tp

On The Lighter Side. . .



"I don't care if it IS the latest translation, if it starts with 'Once upon a time' I'm not using it!"

One In Ten!

There were ten lepers healed, and only one turned back to give thanks, but it is to be noticed that our Lord did not recall his gift from the other nine because of their lack of gratitude. When we begin to lessen our acts of kindness and helpfulness because we think those who receive do not properly appreciate what is done for them, it is time to question our own motives.

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SAVE THE DATE!
June 1, 2025

**This will be our next
Covered Dish Luncheon**

**We will be celebrating Birthdays and
Anniversaries for the months of June, July and
August and we want you to come and join us and
invite your friends and neighbors to come also.**

Hospitality group 2 will be in charge of this
luncheon – Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien and
Norma Perkins.

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Communion Preparation for May
Isaiah & Amanda Molloy



We had an enjoyable time of fellowship and singing as
we shared a meal together this past Wednesday. We
would love for you to join us on Wednesday Nights for
our Mid-Week Bible Study and plan to join us for our
next Wednesday Night Meal on May 28, 2025.

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THE TRUCK FROM SUNNY GLEN will be here the
week of June 10th. They are establishing a new
pick-up schedule and will be coming approximately
every 9 months instead of every 6 months.

*The best way to prevent a nose bleed it to keep it out of
other people's business.*

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden,
Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout,
Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy
hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's
nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law,
cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Jane Adams
Burkhalter** (Diedra Hughes' cousin) **Debra Clifton**
(friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of
Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins'
grandmother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's
brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues)
Joyce Fontenot (Debra Pate's mother) **Emily Heflin** (Mike
Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike
Bostick's sister-in-law) **Wynell Lawson** (Diedra Hughes'
aunt) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with
memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's
mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher,
multiple health issues) **Lane O'Brien** (Mike and Jana's son)
Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons
Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate & Pat
Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father and mother)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw,
Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

**Make a note of the dates of these activities on
the Calendar for 2025.**

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon
September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day
December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday
December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Oftentimes we wonder why the church is weak, and why that in a recent nationwide poll, almost 70% of those who claim membership in church never attend services.

We could blame it on our secular-progressive society and we often do. We could blame it on the godless politics of our nation, organizations like the ACLU and Freedom From Religion Foundation, and they too are often our "whipping boy". We could even blame it on churches, hypocritical members and uncaring preachers and there are numerous Christians who are doing that also.

Maybe, just maybe, it's time for church members to look in the mirror and really take a good look at what they see. Perhaps congregations across America are weak because many church members have lost the biblical understanding of what it means to be a part of the local church, the body of Christ.

People come to the church expecting to be served, fed and cared for. God did not give us the local church for it to be a "Country Club" where membership means there are privileges and perks. The church is where we are to serve, care for others, pray for leaders, learn, teach and give.

Perhaps churches are weak because we have turned the meaning of membership upside down. We were saved to serve and not saved to be served.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**