

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, June 29th, 2025

Series: **“Doing Things Jesus’s Way”**

Message: **“Testing the Soil of Our Hearts”**

Sermon Text: **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**; Old Testament Text: **Isaiah 55:8-11**; New Testament Text: **1 Timothy 4:1-5**. Read **Matthew 22:1-14** as you listen to the sermon, then answer the questions below.

1. What did Jesus do to escape the crush of the crowd?
2. Who is the main character in Christ’s parable & what is he doing?
3. Why does Jesus speak in parables? (Read **Matthew 13:13-17**.)

What has happened to most of the people’s hearts?

What has happened to most of the people’s eyes and ears?

4. What four different things happened to the seed?
5. What did the seed that was devoured by the birds represent on the symbolic level?
6. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown on rocky ground represent?

How is the word initially received at this level?

Why doesn’t this word last?

7. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown among thorns represent?

8. What does the good soil represent on the symbolic level?

9. How would you describe the soil of your heart?

10. What will you remember most from this lesson?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Isaiah 55:8-11** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. How does the Lord say our ways differ from His ways?
 2. What kind of heart must we have to be able to receive this word gratefully?
 3. To what things does God compare His Word?
 4. What truth is God proclaiming in **Isaiah 55:10-11**?
 5. Can you think of some ways God has revealed this truth to you in your lifetime?

- II. Next read **1 Timothy 4:1-5**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. What does the Holy Spirit tell us will happen to many believers?
 2. Who is the source of these ungodly teachings?
 3. What sorts of things will these false teachers try to forbid?
 4. What makes all things created by God good?
 5. How must we receive all things?
 6. According to **1 Timothy 4:5**, what makes things holy?

- III. Read **Matthew 22:1-14**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
 1. What did Jesus do to escape the crush of the crowd?
 2. Who is the main character in Christ's parable & what is he doing?
 3. Why does Jesus speak in parables? (Read **Matthew 13:13-17**.)
 4. What has happened to most of the people's hearts?
 5. What has happened to most people's eyes and ears?
 6. What four different things happened to the seed?
 7. What did the seed that was devoured by the birds represent on the symbolic level?
 8. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown on rocky ground represent?
 9. How is the word initially received at this level?
 10. Why doesn't this word last?
 11. On the symbolic level, what does the seed sown among thorns represent?
 12. What does the good soil represent on the symbolic level?
 13. How would you describe the soil of your heart?