



Sermon Small Group Discussion Questions
February 20, 2010



Parable of the Soils: Genuine Faith Revealed

Preacher: Jeff Gilmore
Luke 8:4-18

BIG IDEA: Time
Genuine Faith Never Lets Go of Jesus!
The gauntlet of life will always ultimately reveal genuine faith.

FOR STARTERS

1. Open your time in prayer. Have someone pull out the bulletin notes and summarize the main points of the message. If you did listen to the message, share one thought that was meaningful to you. Also make sure you read through the passage—**Luke 8:4-18**.
2. Read Jeff's **BIG IDEA** above. How have you found this to be true in your life and relationships (positively or negatively)? Share stories.

DIG INTO BIBLE

3. To demonstrate his **BIG IDEA**, Jeff mentioned a few other Scriptures that speak into this topic of genuine faith. Read the following texts and write out what you learn about faith that perseveres.
(**John 15:1-6; Colossians 1:21-23; 2 John 9**)

STUDY AND APPLY

4. Summarize the four soils and what type of heart each has. What happened to the Word in each case and why? How can someone prevent the three negative responses to the Word?

5. Jeff explained that Satan schemes to keep our hearts hard toward God's Word. Read the following passages and explain how Satan tries to lead us toward hardening our hearts.
(**2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10**).

6. Jeff shared that one way we can prevent a hard heart is to meditate on the grace of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. What does this mean? How does one practically go about this? Share ideas.

7. How do the cares and riches of life crowd our hearts? How do you keep this from happening?

8. **Application:** What type of soil best describes your life right now? How can you move toward the attitudes of the faithful heart? (holding fast to Word, goodness, being genuine, patiently bearing fruit). What changes would you see in your life if you grew in this area?