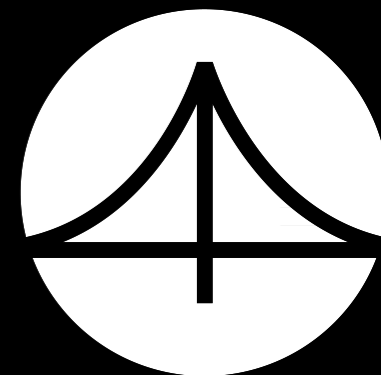


Luke: The Sower

Luke 8:4-21



**Hearing Jesus leads to
life.**

**1. The Purpose of
Parables**

2. Barriers to Faith

3. Keys to Faith

The Purpose of Parables

- Parable: a story about something on earth that teaches us about God's kingdom
- Why Jesus taught in parables:
 - NOT because He doesn't want people to know Him
 - To weed out true followers from fans
 - They are a tool that teaches true followers deep truths while concealing the truths from casual listeners

“Parables both reveal and conceal truth: they reveal it to the genuine seeker who will take the trouble to dig beneath the surface and discover the meaning, but they conceal it from him who is content simply to listen to the story.”

– Leon Morris

Barriers to Faith

- The Path's Barrier: The devil takes away the word from their hearts
- The Rocky Soil's Barrier: Times of testing
 - Testing doesn't have to destroy us, it can strengthen us instead
- The Thorny Soil's Barrier: Cares and riches and pleasures of life

“In none of the accounts [of this parable] is there any indication of a farmer disappointed with his losses.”

– Kyle Snodgrass

Keys to Faith

- Recognize that the gospel is key, not your works
- Ask like a child
- Go deep (Community is key)
- Persevere