SOIL ✿ CARE

Lectio Divina

30 X 60 X 100

Lectio Divina | Mark 4:1-20

Adapted with permission from [Soul Shepherding](#).

Lectio Divina Process

Since the 6th Century when Benedict of Nursia developed Lectio Divina as a way of listening to God in a Bible text people have been using this discipline to help them open their hearts to Christ and one another. Lectio Divina can help us grow in our discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Hearing God's voice with confidence takes practice. A great way to learn is through Lectio Divina, a method of Scripture meditation developed by Benedict in the sixth century. Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below. In a group context follow the leader's instructions to know when you can share your responses. Be sure to protect people's confidentiality.

Introduction to the Text

Jesus is teaching by a lake. He tells the crowd a parable that's key to understanding life with God, so important that grasping what's here is key to understanding all of His parables (4.13). It concerns the soil of our hearts and how we respond to Him.

Mark 4 NIV

1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

9 Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. 11 He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that,

"'they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,

and ever hearing but never understanding;

otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!'" Isaiah 6:9-10

13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? 14 The farmer sows the word. 15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. 16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; 19 but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. 20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that and write down your thoughts.

2. What do you feel? What longings in your heart begin to surface? What

specific situation in your life today relates? Journal these down, write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3. What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

Go deeper into Lectio Divinas at
https://www.soulshepherding.org/lectio-divina-guides/ and
https://shop.soulshepherding.org/products/lectio-divina-guide