

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left, a large sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm color palette.

The Gospel of

Luke



The Sower

& The Soils

Luke 8:1-3

1 Soon afterward Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Being “with Jesus” is part and parcel of our discipleship. It is ultimately the explanation for our power.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Luke 8:4-6

4 And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable, 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture."

Luke 8:7-8

7 “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

A PARABLE is an extended metaphor. It offers its hearers a new perspective from which to view the world and their lives. Its goal is to challenge, surprise, and lead us into transformation.



Hopelessly
naïve?

OR

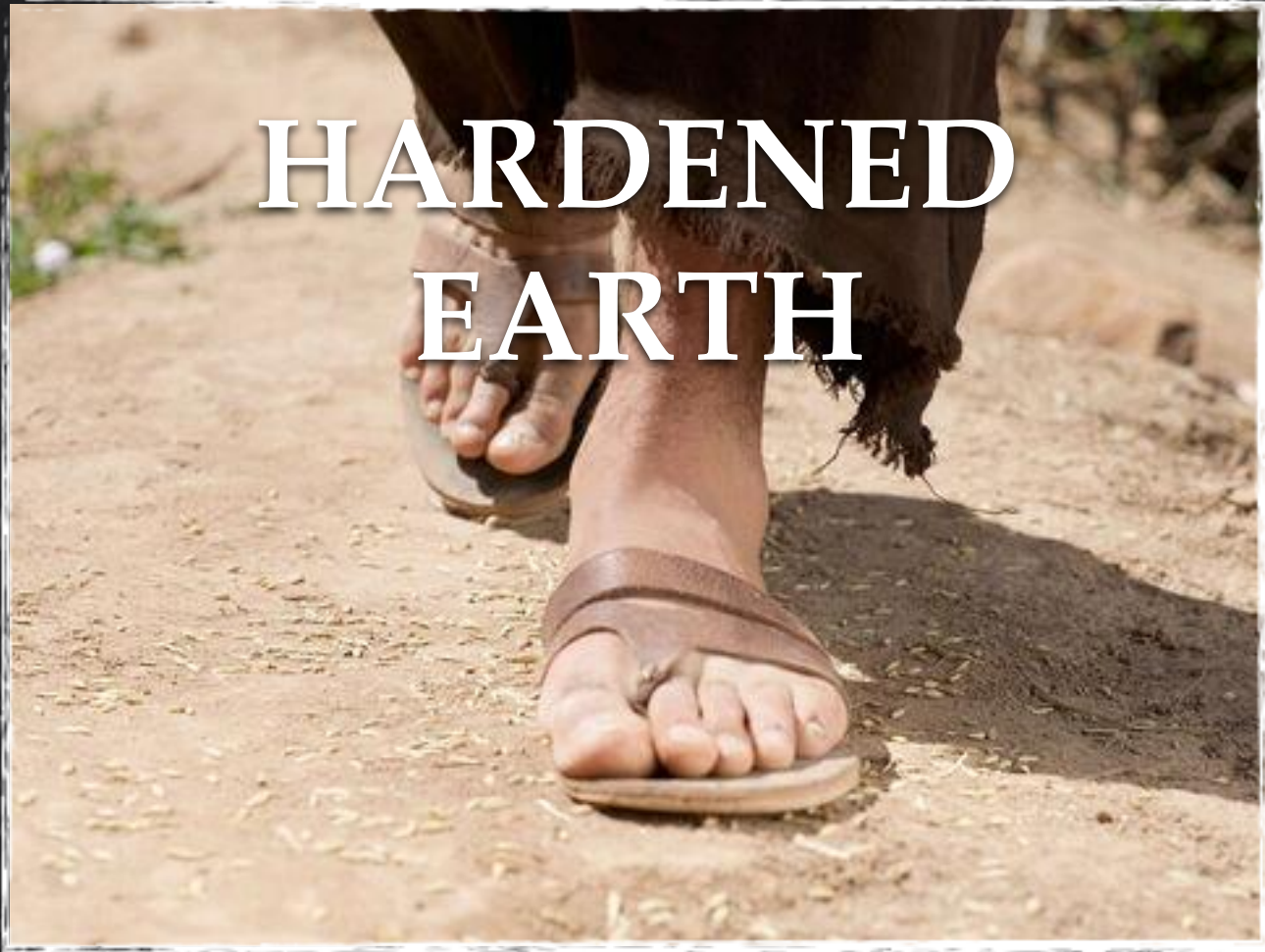
Endlessly
hopeful?

The Farmer

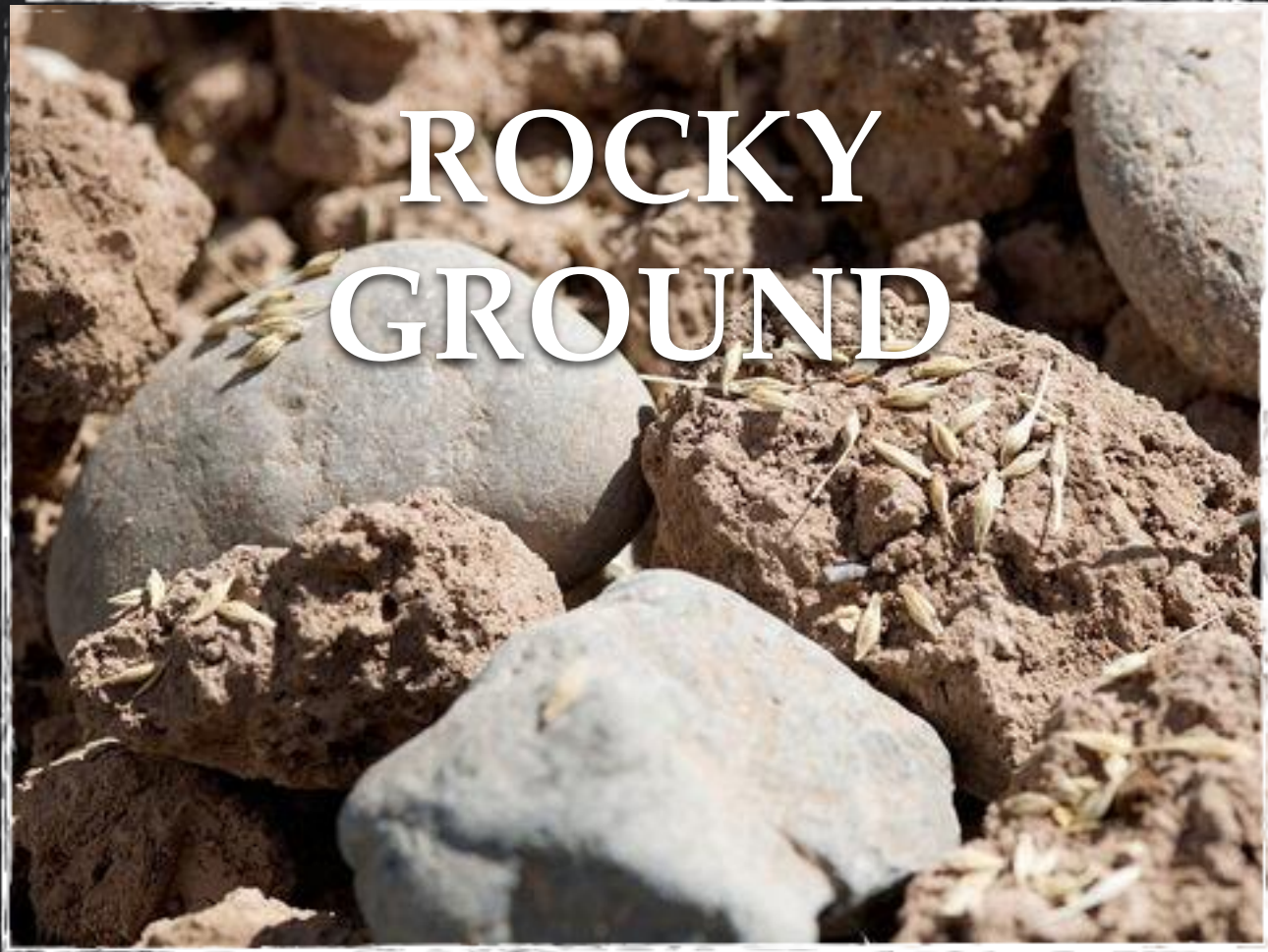


The Soils

HARDENED EARTH



ROCKY GROUND



THORN-INFESTED SOIL





**RICH, WELL-TILLED
LOAM**

*“He who has ears to hear,
let him hear.” (v. 8)*

Luke 8:9-11

9 And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, 10 he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."



The Saving Word

Luke 8:12

12 “The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.”

Luke 8:13

13 “And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.”

Luke 8:14

14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Luke 8:15

15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.



The Response of Faith

*“Take care then how you
hear!” (v. 18)*

Get specific: What is one way Jesus is inviting you to prepare the soil of your heart and life for his gospel fruit?