

• The Rocky Soil — Isaiah 5:24

Therefore, as tongues of fire lick up straw and as dry grass sinks down in the flames, so their roots will decay and their flowers blow away like dust; for they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

- (Jeremiah 17, Ezekiel 17, Psalm 1)
- No depth, temptation or hardship scorches the message
- “Fall away” *skandalizon* - “offended”
Matthew 11:1-6 (Isaiah 35:4-6; 42:7,18; 61:1)
John 6:61, 66-68

• Traditional Disciplines

#1 Bible Study

- Devotional Reading/Meditating
- Studying

Study Bible

biblegateway.com

Bema Discipleship Podcast

Episode #24 - “Creating a Space”

“The Life You’ve Always Wanted” by John Ortberg

“The Spirit of the Disciplines” by Dallas Willard

- Copying the text
- Memorizing

#2 Prayer

- Prayer Journaling
- Fixed-Hour prayer
9a - 12p - 3p - 6p - 9p (Acts 3)
7:14 - prayer for nation/world / repentance
- Praying the text
Psalms, Prophets, NT prayers
- Corporate prayer
- Praying in the Spirit

• The Thorny Soil - Jeremiah 4:3-4

This is what the Lord says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem: “Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire because of the evil you have done— burn with no one to quench it.

- crowded out by routine, busyness, acquiring things, ministry
- “One thing” (Psalm 27, Luke 10:38-42)

• Presence Disciplines

#1 Solitude, Sabbath and Silence

“Creating a space to become more aware of the love, grace and companionship of God than the companionship, demands and duties of life and others.”

#2 Practicing the Presence

“Learning to be aware of God as a constant companion; staying in constant contact with God”

#3 Simplicity

“Resisting the pull of complexity, acquisition, consumption and hurry through the intentional pursuit of a simple life (dress, eating, transportation, technology, speech, etc.)”

#4 Fasting & Self-Denial

- partial foods / Daniel Fast (no meats or sweets)
- Liquid fast
- water only
- 3 day fasts, 7 days, 10 days, 1 day a week
- media, sports, books, etc.

• The Path - Hosea 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

- righteousness (justice toward others)

“To understand Jesus’ teaching, we must realize that deep in our orientations of our spirit we cannot have one posture toward God and a different one toward other people.” -Dallas Willard

• Lifestyle Disciplines

#1 Generosity

#2 Submission

- parents, teacher, boss, leader, authority etc.
- Honoring others above yourselves

#3 Gratitude

- 70 blessings a day
- Complaining

• The Good Soil - 30, 60, 100x's (Genesis 26:1-33)

Sunday June 13, 2021 “Working the Soil”

Parable - practical earthly story with a kingdom of heaven meaning

Mark 4:1-25 - Parable of the Soils

(Isaiah 6:9-10, John 6:26-27, James 1:21-25)

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. You cannot earn a miracle, but effort is part of the equation.” -Dallas Willard

• Jewish Hermeneutic

- P'SHAT - surface level reading
- REMEZ - “hint” / link to Hebrew Scriptures
- DRASH - “Truth hidden in the story”
 - often confuses
 - wrestled with in the context of community
- SOD - “mystery” / supernatural gift from God (Matthew 16:17)

Bema Discipleship Podcast

Episode #109 - “What Soil?”

Episode #110 - “Jewish Hermeneutic”

<http://makingtalmidim.blogspot.com/2015/03/jewish-hermeneutics.html>

- Removing rocks and putting down roots
 - traditional disciplines - Bible study, Prayer
- Cutting away thorns - intentional living
 - presence disciplines - solitude, sabbath, simplicity, fasting
- Breaking up the hard areas of our hearts
 - obedience, practical disciplines - humbling ourselves

Our job is the soil, His job is the results

Success is developing intimacy with God and community with each other, through a living relationship with Jesus. We believe that an individual, who is developing intimacy with God, in the context of Christian community, will make an impact for the Kingdom of God.

A team of individuals, who make an impact for the Kingdom of God, will have a fruitful ministry. Though we do not aim for "making an impact," and we do not aim for "fruitful ministries," we recognize that these two situations will supernaturally occur when individuals develop intimacy with God in Christian community.

Ministry is the product of our love for God, and an expression of a heart devoted to God.

We must not allow "ministry for God" to crowd "intimacy with God" out of our lives. We cannot control "making an impact," and we cannot control "fruitful ministries," but we have absolute control over developing intimacy with God and being devoted to one another.

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