

A photograph of a forest path with sunlight filtering through the trees. The path is a narrow dirt trail winding through a dense forest of tall, thin trees with vibrant green leaves. Sunlight creates a bright, hazy glow in the upper left and center of the image, casting long shadows on the path. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Spring Forward

Min. Mishae J. Rice

Soil & Human Behavior Changes

Soil Changes

- Water saturation yields compaction that inhibits root development, causing early plant stress
- Heavy rainfall washes away essential nutrients, reducing soil fertility
- High vulnerability to erosion and surface sealing, inhibiting seedling emergence

Human Behavior Changes

- Improved mood & “fresh start” motivation
- Higher energy
- Increased social activity
- Routine disruptions & Spring fatigue
- Increased pressure/anxiety & restlessness



A lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The scene is filled with vibrant green foliage and tall, slender tree trunks. Sunlight creates a warm, golden glow, highlighting the texture of the leaves and the path leading through the woods.

Be Sustained

Luke 8:4-15

Luke 8:4-8 (NIV)

⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil.

It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 8:9-12 (NIV)

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

‘though seeing, they may not see;

though hearing, they may not understand.’

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they

may not believe and be saved.

Luke 8:13-15 (NIV)

¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

No matter what type of soil you are, you still need Jesus!

How To Be Sustained

Featuring Lessons from OT Giants, Moses & Gideon

- **Moses: Exodus - Deuteronomy**
 - **Gideon: Judges 6-8**
- 

**Follow Jesus
(v. 4-15)**

**Talk to Jesus
(v. 9-11)**

**Have Faith
in Jesus
(v. 12-15)**

**Absorb
Jesus
(v. 15)**

He Knows the Plan

Omniscience Displayed

- Jesus was teaching (v. 4)
- Parables are taught from wisdom/experience (v. 5-15)

He Reveals the Plan

(v. 9-10)

- Hidden things from the OT are revealed in the NT
- Believers can understand, while unbelievers cannot

Follow Jesus
(v. 4-15)



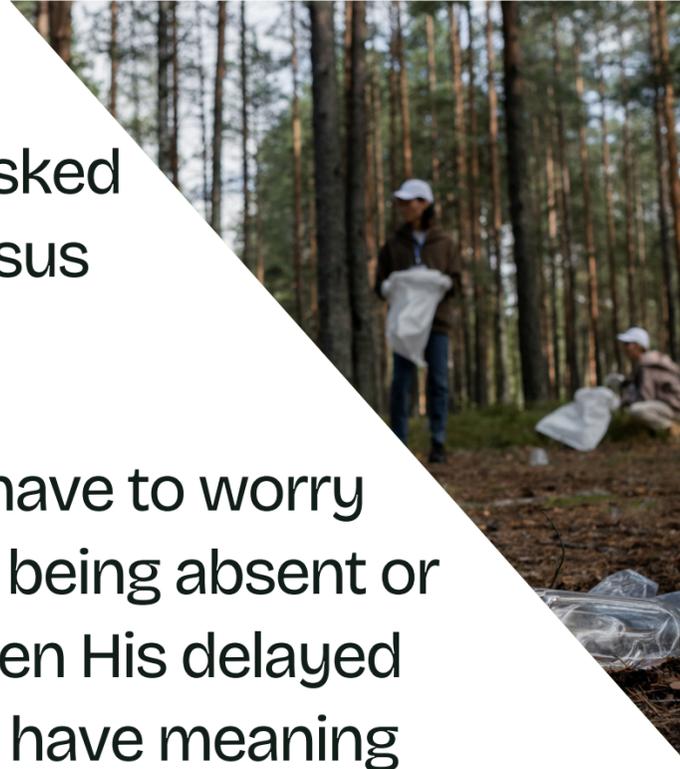
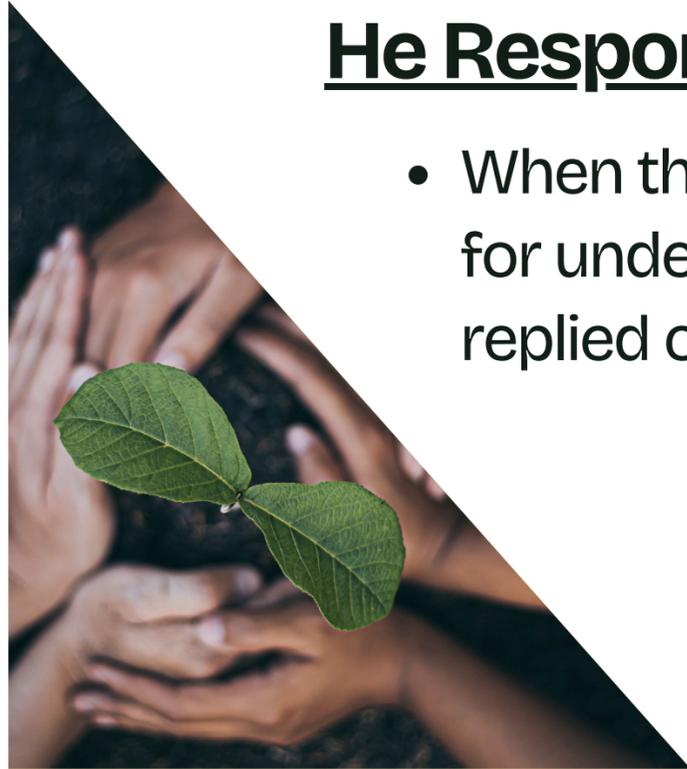
Moses & Gideon

Though fearful & insecure, they still chose to obey God, with one step of obedience at a time.

- Moses started by asking his father-in-law to release him to go back to Egypt to see if his people were alive (Exodus 3:18)
- Gideon, full of fear, started by secretly replacing the idol at his father's house with an altar to the Lord (Judges 6:27)

He Responds

- When the disciples asked for understanding, Jesus replied clearly
- We never have to worry about God being absent or unclear; even His delayed responses have meaning that He reveals



Moses & Gideon

They had plenty of fears and questions from the start! Feeling unequipped, they still inquired of God.

- Moses had several insecurities and even asked God to send someone else, but he still prayed (Exodus 3-4)
- Gideon's unsurety produced several questions and confirmation tests for Jehovah Shalom before he finally received his peace (Judges 6:12-24, 36-40)

Talk to Jesus (v. 9-11)

It Starts Small & Grows

Mustard Seed Faith

- Smallest seed yields the largest garden plant (Mark 4:30-32)

Be Good Soil (v. 15)

- Persevere & produce

Just Remain (John 15:1-17)

- Abide in Christ and let Him abide in you; you'll bear fruit
- Remain in Christ's love by keeping His commands
- His command: love others as He has loved you

Have Faith in Jesus
(v. 8b, 12-15)



Moses & Gideon

They had faith to make a move! Their confidence and authority grew as they obeyed by faith!

- Moses's brother spoke for him at first, but he'd eventually address Israel himself
- Gideon was definitely a "trust and verify" type of person, but once he was sure, he executed, and less confirmation was needed as he grew in faith (Judges 7)

He Changes Your Heart

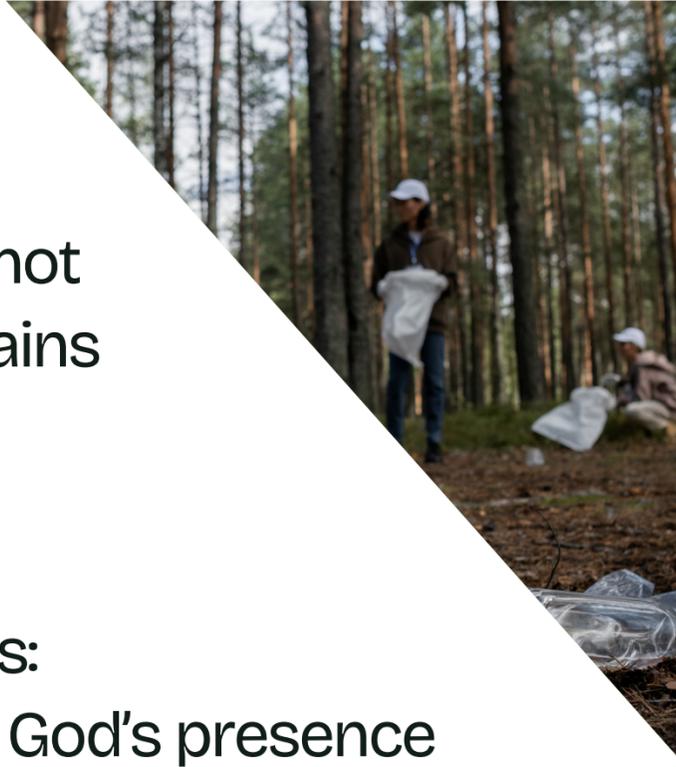
Noble & Good Heart

- This kind of heart not only hears but retains God's word

Psalm 51:10-12

- Pure hearts:
 - Desire God's presence
 - Rely on the Holy Spirit and acknowledge the need to be sustained
 - Find joy in salvation
 - Ask God for a willing spirit

Absorb Jesus
(v. 15)



Moses & Gideon

Full of favor & blessing, their mistakes remind us to be faithful to the end.

- Moses was sustained throughout ministry, but his frustration kept him from the Promised Land (Deut. 3:23-26; 31:48-52; 34:4-5)
- There was peace in the land for 40 years during Gideon's lifetime, but his story still began and ended with idolatry (Judges 8:22-35)