

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES AND INTERACTIVE PDF

Preparing the Ground

The Word of God is living seed, and a prepared heart gives that seed room to take root, endure pressure, and produce the fruit of an obedient life built on Christ.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
Preparing the Ground	Pastor Tim Lee
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Sunday, March 1, 2026	Mark 4:13-20 ; Luke 6:46-49

TOPICS [Word of God](#) | [Preparing the Heart](#) | [Obedience](#) | [Perseverance](#) | [New Creation](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 God has spoken decisively through His Son.

- Jesus is not another religious idea; He is the Son through whom God has spoken in these last days. ([Hebrews 1:1-2](#))
- The eternal Word became flesh, making the Father known and bringing God's truth near to us. ([John 1:1](#); [John 1:14](#))
- Recognizing Jesus as the Christ must lead beyond admiration into trust, surrender, and obedience. ([Matthew 16:16-24](#))

"God has spoken to us by His Son."

STUDY [Hebrews 1:1-2](#); [John 1:1](#); [John 1:14](#); [Matthew 16:16-24](#)

02 The Word is living seed that exposes and transforms the heart.

- The Word is living, powerful, and able to discern what has been conceived in the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ([Hebrews 4:12](#))
- Jesus identifies the seed plainly: the sower sows the Word. What is planted determines the fruit that can grow. ([Mark 4:13-14](#))

- God's Word carries within it the power to produce righteous fruit when it is heard, accepted, and given room to mature. ([Mark 4:20](#))

“The sower sows the Word.”

STUDY [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Mark 4:13-20](#)

03 A fruitful life requires intentional preparation of the heart.

- A hardened path gives the seed no place to penetrate, so understanding and meditation matter when the Word is heard. ([Mark 4:4](#); [Mark 4:15](#))
- Shallow soil receives quickly but has no root to endure pressure, persecution, or the cost of following Jesus. ([Mark 4:5-6](#); [Mark 4:16-17](#))
- Thorns picture cares, deceitful riches, and competing desires that choke the Word and make it unfruitful. ([Mark 4:7](#); [Mark 4:18-19](#))
- Good soil hears, accepts, and bears fruit with patience because hardness, rocks, and weeds are continually removed. ([Luke 8:15](#))

“You’re dealing with your soil. You’re dealing with your heart as you’re listening to the Word.”

STUDY [Mark 4:4-20](#); [Luke 8:4-15](#)

04 Roots in Christ keep obedience steady when pressure comes.

- Receiving Christ is the beginning; believers must walk in Him, rooted and built up in faith. ([Colossians 2:6-7](#))
- Trusting the Lord instead of leaning on personal understanding allows Him to direct the path. ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#))
- Nothing in life, death, the present, or the future can separate those rooted in Christ from the love of God. ([Romans 8:38-39](#))

“There’s something to be said about being so planted that it doesn’t matter what happens.”

STUDY [Colossians 2:6-7](#); [Proverbs 3:5-6](#); [Romans 8:38-39](#)

05 New creation life produces a new kind of fruit.

- Anyone in Christ is a new creation; the former life has passed away and all things have become new. ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. ([2 Corinthians 5:18-19](#))

- A heart filled with the good treasure of God’s Word brings forth good fruit in speech, relationships, and conduct. ([Luke 6:43-45](#))
- Bitterness and unforgiveness must be released because they crowd the heart and resist the life of love and faith. ([Hebrews 12:14-15](#))

“We fail to recognize the change that’s happened in our hearts.”

STUDY [2 Corinthians 5:17-19](#); [Luke 6:43-45](#); [Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

06 Hearing becomes a foundation only when the Word is obeyed.

- Calling Jesus Lord without doing what He says leaves belief disconnected from the life He intends. ([Luke 6:46](#))
- The person who hears and acts digs deep until life rests on the rock, where pressure cannot shake the house. ([Luke 6:47-48](#))
- Christ is the only foundation; every believer must take care how life and ministry are built upon Him. ([1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#))

“When you find your Savior, you’re done searching.”

STUDY [Luke 6:46-49](#); [1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

[Hebrews 1:1-2](#)

[John 1:1](#)

[John 1:14](#)

[Matthew 16:16-24](#)

[Hebrews 4:12](#)

[Mark 4:13-20](#)

[Mark 4:4-20](#)

[Luke 8:4-15](#)

[Colossians 2:6-7](#)

[Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

[Romans 8:38-39](#)

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[Hebrews 12:14-15](#)

[Luke 6:46-49](#)

[1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#)

Is your heart ready for the Word?

What hardness, distraction, or competing desire needs to be removed so the Word can take deeper root in your heart?

Where has pressure exposed shallow roots, and what practice will help you become more firmly rooted in Christ?

What truth about your new life in Christ needs to become visible in your words, relationships, or conduct?

What instruction from Jesus have you heard but not yet obeyed, and what step will you take this week?
