

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

WEEK 7: BREAK UP THE FALLOW GROUND

QUARTER 3: SOUNDS

STEP INTO SCRIPTURE



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THIS WEEK'S READING:

WED, SEP 24 JEREMIAH 18-22

THU, SEP 25 ZEPHANIAH 23-25

FRI, SEP 26 JEREMIAH 26-29

SAT, SEP 27 JEREMIAH 30-31

SUN, SEP 28 JEREMIAH 32-34

MON, SEP 29 JEREMIAH 35-37

TUE, SEP 30 JEREMIAH 38-40; PSALMS 74, 79

**30 minutes for arrival, fellowship,
and reading**

30 minutes for teaching

**30 minutes for table discussion and
announcements**

TODAY'S READING:

JEREMIAH 18-22
DAY 224 IN STEP INTO SCRIPTURE

**Israel (North) fell to Assyria in 722 BC
(2 Kings 17).**

**Assyria collapsed after Ashurbanipal;
Nineveh fell in 612 BC.**

**Babylon rose; Nebuchadnezzar
defeated Egypt (605 BC).**

**Judah briefly revived under Josiah (d.
609 BC), then slid back into idolatry;
Jerusalem fell in 586 BC.**

PART 1:

JEREMIAH'S CALLING

JEREMIAH 1:4-5

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

JEREMIAH 1:9-10

Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, “I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.”

PART 2:

JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE

JEREMIAH 1:14

The Lord said to me, “From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land.”

JEREMIAH 2:2

Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: This is what the Lord says: “I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown.”

JEREMIAH 2:5

This is what the Lord says:

“What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

PART 3:

SIN IS AN EXCHANGE

ROMANS 1:24-25

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

ROMANS 1:26-27

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

ROMANS 1:28

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.

Sin is a ruinous exchange.

**Truth for a lie
Sobriety for addiction
Freedom for slavery
Love for abuse
Glory for shame**

Sin blinds you, blinds you, and grinds you.

**Sin takes us further than we want to go
and keeps us longer than we want to stay
and costs us more than we can afford to pay.**

PART 4:

SIN IS AN ADDICTION

JEREMIAH 2:23-24

“How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals’? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done. You are a swift she-camel running here and there, a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving— in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her.

JEREMIAH 2:25

Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, 'It's no use! I love foreign gods, and I must go after them.'

ROMAN 6:17

But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

ROMAN 6:2-4

We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

PART 5:

SIN IS A DECEPTION

**Judah's tragedy was not only sin but their
self-deception about their sin.**

JEREMIAH 3:4-5

Have you not just called to me: “My Father, my friend from my youth, will you always be angry? Will your wrath continue forever?” This is how you talk, but you do all the evil you can.

JEREMIAH 3:12-13

‘Return, faithless Israel,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will frown on you no longer, for I am faithful,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt—you have rebelled against the Lord your God.

Babylon is rising.

Judah is unrepentant.

Sin is enslaving.

False security abounds.

God still calls His people to return.

PART 6:

THE BLESSING OF
GODLY SHEPHERDS

JEREMIAH 3:14-15

“Return, faithless people,” declares the Lord, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan—and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

Repentance precedes blessing.

What is His gift to the repentant?

Shepherds.

Rebellion forfeits godly leadership.

1 PETER 5:2-4

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

**Elders as Under-shepherds: they serve
under Christ, the Chief Shepherd.**

Faithfulness in a church community matters.

**If we reject accountability, we walk alone;
and alone we are vulnerable.**

JEREMIAH 3:25

Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the Lord our God, both we and our ancestors; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the Lord our God.

**Confession means calling sin what it is,
not excusing it and not rationalizing it.**

JEREMIAH 4:3-4

Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns. Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts.

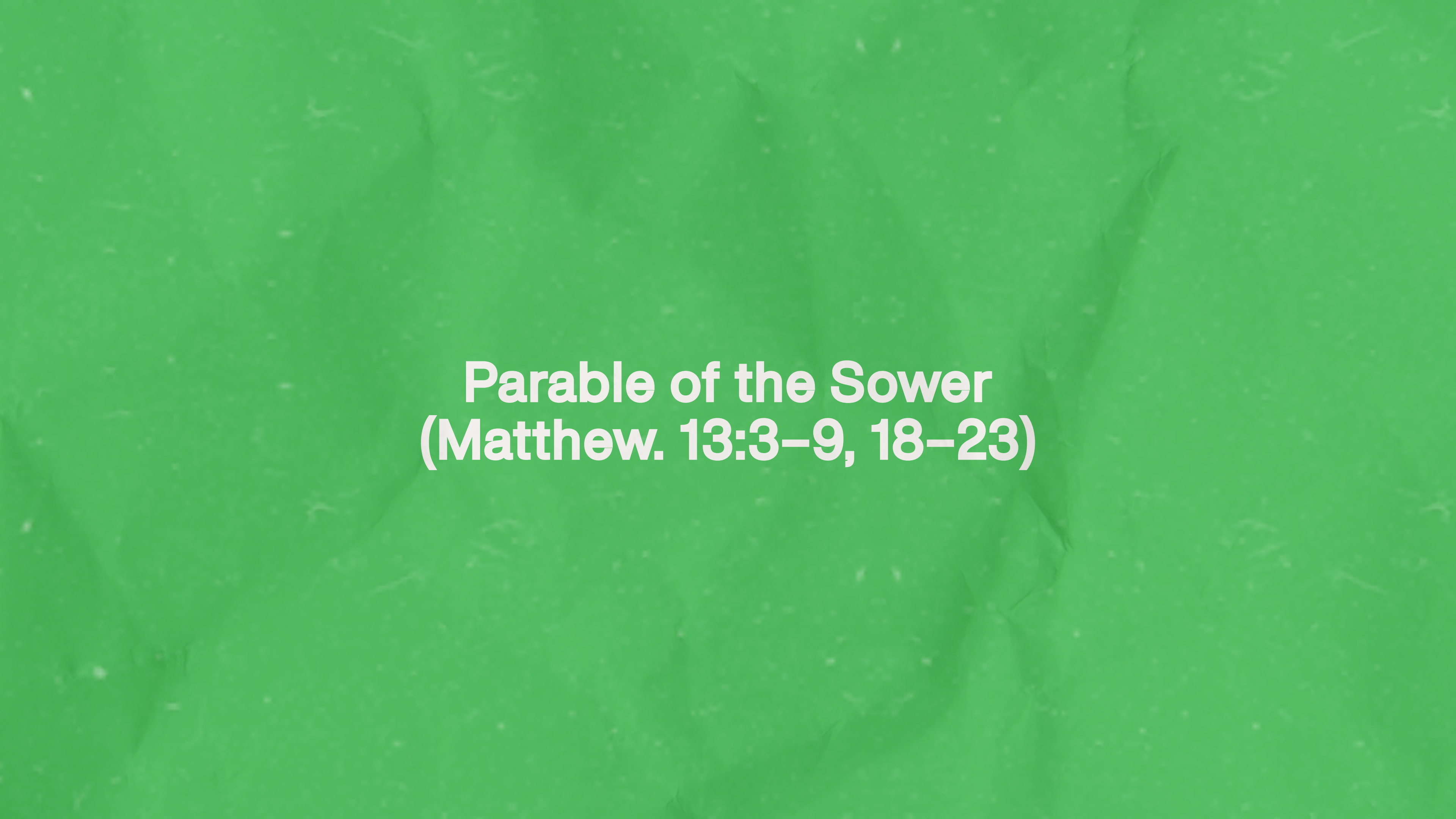
JEREMIAH 9:25-26

**“The days are coming,” declares the Lord
“when I will punish all who are circumcised only
in the flesh—Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon,
Moab and all who live in the wilderness in
distant places. For all these nations are really
uncircumcised, and even the whole house of
Israel is uncircumcised in heart.”**

COLOSSIANS 2:11-12

In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

**In baptism, the old self is cut
away and buried with Christ,
and new life begins.**



Parable of the Sower (Matthew. 13:3–9, 18–23)

PART 7:

A CULTURE OF PRETENDERS

JEREMIAH 5:1-2

“Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city. Although they say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives,’ still they are swearing falsely.”

JEREMIAH 5:31

The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end?

False prophets speak what people want to hear.

Corrupt priests lead by their own authority.

The people prefer it that way.

**True shepherds are a blessing.
False shepherds are a curse.**

**Which kind of leadership we have often
depends on whether we repent or resist.**

JEREMIAH 6:10

To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the Lord is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it.

The result of sin:

Ears closed

Hearts hard

Truth offensive

The Word unwelcome

Idolatry/child sacrifice: 7:18, 31; 11:13; 32:35

Trust in temple rather than God: 7:4

Injustice/oppression: 5:28; 7:6–7

Greed/deceitful leadership: 5:27–31; 6:13–14

Sexual Immorality: 13:27; 23:14

Refusal to repent: 5:3; 7:24

Two Kinds of Shepherds

**1. Godly shepherds,
a blessing to the repentant.**

**2. False shepherds,
a curse to the unrepentant.**

JEREMIAH 9:3-4

“They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me,” declares the Lord. “Beware of your friends; do not trust anyone in your clan. For every one of them is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer.

JEREMIAH 9:5

Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning.

JAMES 3:5-6

Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

JAMES 3:9-10

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with It we curse human beings, who have been made In God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

MATTHEW 12:34-35

You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

JEREMIAH 11:19

**I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter;
I did not realize that they had plotted against me,
saying, “Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us
cut him off from the land of the living, that his
name be remembered no more.”**

Are we really open to correction?

Or are we just looking for validation?

JEREMIAH 13:20

Look up and see those who are coming from the north. Where is the flock that was entrusted to you, the sheep of which you boasted?

JEREMIAH 13:23

Can an Ethioplan change his skin or a leopard its spots? Nelther can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

“Don’t be so naive about antagonistic people. Not everyone is pure. Never assume the leopard has changed his spots apart from a conversion level event...especially power hungry people.”

Cam Huxford