

Text: Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23; Isa 58:1-12
Topics: Fasting, the Heart, the Word of God
Stand Alone Message

Monroe Bible Church
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Hearing God?

What is "Reset"?

I. The Message of the Parable (Matt. 13:1-9; 18-23)

It is the condition of the heart that determines whether God's Word will be fruitful in a person.

II. The Mercy of the Parable (Matt 13:10-13)

It is by God's grace and His mercy that understanding of His Word is given or not given.

III. The Meaningless Fast (Isaiah 58:1-12)

God answers those who fast with hearts of humility not hearts of hypocrisy.

How will I respond to "reset"?

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group for even more benefit.

1. What were your initial thoughts to a 40-day media fast? Why?
2. Read the Parable of the Sower that Jesus told in Matthew 13:1-9, then read His explanation of its meaning in verses 18-23. What do each of the 4 soils represent?

Path

Rocky

Thorny

Good

What does the seed and the fruit represent?

Which soil represents where you are right now? Can you think of times that the other types of soil represent where you were? Explain.

3. What question did the disciples ask Jesus in Matthew 13:11-13? Explain Jesus' answer and why it shows the grace and mercy of God.

4. Read Isaiah 58:1-12. What sin does God point out that negated the effectiveness of Israel's fast?

What correction does God call for?

What blessing does God describe for a true fast?

5. Think and pray about what your media fast should look like. Write it down here. Select an accountability person and discuss it with them and your Life Group.