

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Here Comes Church – “In the know”

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. The “e” stands for empowerment - because getting the instructions from God without having the empowerment to live them out will frustrate you. These groups are our way of putting some very wonderful people in front of you feed you spiritually.
- Stay out of “isolation silos” - you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Don't over-think it – Invite someone to church – “Who do you know that is close to you that is far from God?”
- What are your Gr8ful eight?
- Elevation Nights tour: Feb 24–Mar 5 in Hershey (PA), Brooklyn (NY), Indianapolis (IN), Milwaukee (WI), Grand Rapids (MI), Knoxville (TN), Columbus (OH), Rosemont (IL). Tickets: elevationnights.com.

Mathew 13: 31 to 44

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

³¹ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

³³ He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds^[b] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”^[c]

The Parable of the Weeds Explained

³⁶ Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Mathew 13: 31 to 44

The Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Opening Prayer on 1/25/2026: “Come on, somebody help me lift the name of Jesus. Come on, let's lift the name of Jesus. Blessed Redeemer, Jesus! Blessed Redeemer, Jesus! Humble Savior, Jesus! Glorious Lord, Emmanuel! God with us! And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords! What's His name? See us every time we live Healing in the name of Jesus Salvation in the name of Jesus Freedom in the name of Jesus No other name but Jesus The only name that saves. Father, I thank you today that when I don't know what to do, I know who to call. I ask you today, Lord, show up for your people. They've called on you. They've cried to you. We believe in your word. Your word says that if we call, you'll hear us in the day of trouble. I pray right now, Lord. that for every storm that may be happening, whether it's a physical storm that the weatherman was talking about, or whether it's an emotional storm that no one knows of, that you would speak peace to it. Peace, be still. Peace, be still. Yours is the voice that doesn't need a sound system. Peace. Be still. Yours is the power that never goes out. Peace. Be still.”

Part 1: Detailed sermon notes

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Sermon Summary

Wondering if you should give up because progress feels slow? Wisdom isn’t choosing what’s easiest, it’s choosing what’s worth it. If you’re tempted to quit because it’s hard, remember: God uses pressure and patience to prepare you for something greater.

Sermon Highlights

- Maturity is learning to see when something will be worth it and embrace it — and when it's not worth it, to walk away.
- Wisdom is the ability to hear that little whisper that God will give you from time to time and say, "It's worth it."
- God can't light a fire when you don't have the priorities to put his presence first in your life.
- It's little until it isn't.
- Some of the most significant things God will do in your life will be some of the smallest things when they start.
- If I see the dirt as a place to avoid, I will never go through the processes that will make me grow.
- Some of us never produce our potential because we are never planted in our purpose.
- God says the dirt is worth it.
- I'm grateful that He looks at me covered in all of the things that I should've cast off and says, "It's worth the dirt."
- You don't trip over treasure. You dig it out. Stop looking for God to put stuff on the surface.
- Dirt served a purpose. It made the mustard seed branch out.
- The battle is not over your seed. The battle is over your tree. The battle is over your branches.

Scriptures:

- Matthew 13:31-32 -- The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- Matthew 13:44 -- The Parable of the Hidden Treasure
- Genesis 2:7 -- God made humanity from the dirt

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Sermon Summary

Discussion Questions

- “Wisdom is the ability to hear that little whisper that God will give you from time to time and say, ‘It’s worth it.’” Where do you sense God reminding you it’s worth it to keep going?
- “If I see the dirt as a place to avoid, I will never go through the processes that will make me grow.” What does the dirt represent in your life right now? What growth might be on the other side of what you’re avoiding?
- “Maturity is learning to see when something will be worth it and embrace it — and when it's not worth it, to walk away.” Where in your life are you in the process of discerning whether something’s worth it or not?
- “Some of the most significant things God will do in your life will be some of the smallest things when they start.” Share something in your life that looked “little,” but God used it to create a big impact.
- “You don’t trip over treasure. You dig it out. Stop looking for God to put stuff on the surface.” What’s a “treasure” in your life that required consistent effort but was definitely worth it?

Prayer Prompt: “Lord, even when our lives feel messy and broken, thank You for looking at us and seeing treasure. Please grant us the maturity to discern what’s worth it and what to walk away from as we go throughout our week. Continue to strengthen us when we feel tempted to give up, because we know that You’re using us to bring about generational blessings. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

AI enabled sermon summary

Overview

A high-energy worship service emphasized the power of Jesus’ name, prayed “Peace, be still” over physical and emotional storms, and delivered a sermon centered on discerning what is “worth it” and why spiritual growth is “worth the dirt.” Despite storm warnings, a smaller Saturday gathering proceeded; repeated sound-system failures occurred, but the message continued with conviction. Core scriptures: Matthew 13:31–32 (mustard seed), Matthew 13:44 (treasure in a field), and Isaiah 55 (God’s word does not return void). The pastor welcomed the global eFam (online family) and called the church to steadfast faith amid distractions.

Context and Service Notes

- Congregational praise declared Jesus as “Blessed Redeemer,” “Humble Savior,” “Glorious Lord, Emmanuel,” “Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.”
- Prayer over storms (forecast “apocalyptic” weather) and personal turmoil: “Peace, be still.” Commitment to work with outreach partners to serve affected communities.
- Decision not to cancel church; early gathering of ~1,500 attendees (including some from Virginia). Multiple sound outages occurred; congregation persisted in worship.
- Interactive moments: “Hug seven people” with a blessing; online and in-room declarations of “My God is great”; roll call in chat; open Bibles to Matthew 13.
- Main Theme: Discernment—Knowing What Is Worth It
- **Maturity is learning to embrace what is worth it and walk away from what is not.**
- Personal examples: choosing a son’s wrestling tournament over preaching (son said, “If you hadn’t been here to see it, I probably wouldn’t have won it”); deciding heavy squats weren’t worth chronic soreness; refusing to spend peace on arguments with critics (“It might win the argument but cost my peace”).
- Biblical frame: Jesus rebuked Peter for cutting off an ear—some fights “aren’t worth it” when they distract from the cross.
- Convictions about substances: small “slippery” compromises can grow; celebrate “pre-recovery” (proactive boundaries) as much as recovery. Family history prompted abstinence by choice, not legalism.
- Mustard Seed Principle: “It’s little till it isn’t.”
- **Kingdom beginnings often appear insignificant, yet grow into something substantial. Dismissing small starts risks missing God’s work.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

AI enabled sermon summary

Illustrations:

- Peter’s “little” instruction: “Put down the nets for a catch” preceded a big call.
- **Creative process: mumbled voice notes (seeds) became anthems sung against “mountains.”**
- David’s delivery of bread and cheese (small task) led to facing Goliath (big opportunity).
- Elijah’s “cloud the size of a man’s hand” preceded an abundance of rain.
- Feeding the five thousand: a little lunch became leftovers when Jesus touched it.
- Warning: Compromise is also “little till it isn’t.” Small concessions can become strongholds over time.

The Dirt that Grows Us

- **“When it grows, it is the largest of garden plants.” The seed already contained its potential; dirt (process, pressure, imperfection) made it visible.**
- **“Dirt” symbolizes hidden, messy, and uncomfortable conditions—trials, shame, conflict, church imperfections. Growth requires planting; avoiding dirt stalls maturity.**
- Church/community: all churches and people have “dirt.” Don’t church-hop to escape conflict; be planted, work through relationships, and let God change you.
- Treasure in the Field: Buying the Dirt
- Matthew 13:44: The man sells everything to buy the field (not the treasure). Value demands ownership of the whole field—its dirt and its treasure.
- Creation and incarnation: God “does dirt.” Humanity was formed from dirt and given life by God’s breath; Jesus left the throne for the cross—God chose to redeem what is dirty.
- Marriage analogy: A \$3,000 ring (2002) symbolized saying “I do” not just to the “diamond” (anointing, gifts) but also to the “dirt” (anxiety, struggles). Spousal support: “Stop apologizing for it and tell me how I can help you.”
- The Battle Is for the Branches
- Mustard tree branches host birds; the enemy attacks the seed because of its future reach (generational impact). The fight targets what your life will support and shelter.
- Church testimony: early attacks could have choked the seed; perseverance allowed broader impact.
- Home scene: downstairs “dirt” (piles of teens’ shoes, noise); upstairs “worship” (students singing, ceiling shaking). Process below, praise above—both are part of growth.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

AI enabled sermon summary

Encouragements and Declarations

- “Peace, be still” over every storm—physical or emotional. “God is with you, mighty warrior.”
- “It’s worth the dirt.” Some battles aren’t worth fighting, but “this one’s worth it.” Listen for the Spirit’s whisper to persevere or to let go.
- “God does dirt.” He breathes on brokenness; what seems buried may actually be planted for purpose.
- Invitation to Salvation
- Come as you are; God does the cleaning. Pray to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. Public response: raise a hand or type “I receive Jesus.”

Next Steps and Actions

- Remain planted in community; work through conflict rather than escaping it.
- Attend to “small” faithful steps (Scripture, prayer, integrity, serving); trust that “it’s little till it isn’t.”
- Establish wise boundaries (pre-covery) to avoid future bondage.
- Choose peace over pointless arguments; conserve energy for what God says is “worth it.”
- Affirm God’s presence in storms; speak “Peace, be still” and worship through worry.
- For those newly professing faith: continue in prayer, Scripture (Matthew 13), and connection with the church community.
- Church commitment: partner with outreach teams to aid people impacted by the storm.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Transcript of Sermon:

- **Opening Prayer: Come on, somebody help me lift the name of Jesus. Come on, let's lift the name of Jesus. Blessed Redeemer, Jesus! Blessed Redeemer, Jesus! Humble Savior, Jesus! Glorious Lord, Emmanuel! God with us! And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords! What's His name? See us every time we live Healing in the name of Jesus Salvation in the name of Jesus Freedom in the name of Jesus No other name but Jesus The only name that saves. Father, I thank you today that when I don't know what to do, I know who to call. I ask you today, Lord, show up for your people. They've called on you. They've cried to you. We believe in your word. Your word says that if we call, you'll hear us in the day of trouble. I pray right now, Lord. that for every storm that may be happening, whether it's a physical storm that the weatherman was talking about, or whether it's an emotional storm that no one knows of, that you would speak peace to it. Peace, be still. Peace, be still. Yours is the voice that doesn't need a sound system. Peace. Be still. Yours is the power that never goes out. Peace. Be still. Would you reach around?**
- And hug seven people. And tell them this. The Lord is going to give you extra blessings for being here today.
- Those of you online, how are you doing? God is with you, mighty warrior. Get out of the wine press. Stop worrying about it. And worship through it. God is with you in this storm. Yeah, I don't care what the enemy is.
- The Bible says he'll prepare a table in the presence of your enemies. Our God is great and greatly to be praised. Everybody say, my God is great. Come on, either say it with your lips or type it with your fingers or use your thumbs. Put it in the comments right now. Say, my God is great. Tell them yours is great too. Come on, tell your neighbor, we got the same God. Tell him he likes me better, but we're both his kids. How many secretly feel like you're one of God's favorites? Just slip your finger up right here.
- I wanna welcome everybody that's a part of our church, our global eFam around the world. Let's welcome all those who are joining us online today. You know, it's an interesting dilemma. We've been hearing weather reports of Apocalyptic storm that that may be coming and while we take that seriously and while we will be working with our outreach partners to help all of those who are affected and To minister to those who are in need, you know, it gets kind of hard sometimes because there's always a report There's always a reason not to do something and when we heard that the storm was coming right here through where we live It was a conversation, you know, should we cancel church and something inside of me was like this is elevation church and If anything, we can't cancel it. If anything, we got to sneak up on the devil a day early.
- So that's what we're doing. We gathered together. About 1,500 of the most saved, sanctified people in the Carolinas. Some from Virginia. I mean, these are, watch this. These are Holy Ghost filled believers in the room today. That's right. That's right. We checked all the YouVersion Bible reading plans in the church. And the people with the perfect streaks got to come to church today. So we're sharing this with you a little early. The Lord is in this place. And it's been an interesting day here in the room. It's been interesting. Not only do they say a storm is coming. But something happened that's never happened in the 20 years of this church. The entire sound system went out like 500 times.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Transcript of Sermon:

- While we were trying to transition into the sermon and we kept on having to sing the third and fourth and fifth verses of songs that only have two verses. That was interesting as well. And I started thinking about all of that and I thought, Lord, well, maybe you didn't want us to bring this message today.
- Maybe you didn't want me to preach today. All these distractions and all these hindrances. all these obstacles. Maybe you didn't want me to have this service today. Maybe you didn't want me to preach this word today. And something inside me said, no, maybe the devil did. See, we misinterpret when things go wrong. Now, I don't even know if my mic's gonna work for this whole sermon, but I need every prayer warrior praying that this word would reach right where it's supposed to go.
- We welcome you into the presence of the Lord today. Wherever you are, whatever you're going through, God has a word for you, and no word from God will return void. Isaiah 55 says, As the rain falls from the heaven and waters the earth and causes it to flourish, so will God's word be that comes forth from his mouth. It will not return unto him void. It will accomplish what he sent it to do.
- How many are excited about the word today? Come on, clap your hands on your couch. Roll call, everybody. Put your name in the chat.
- And open your Bible, please, to Matthew chapter 13. Matthew chapter 13, verses 31 and 32. And Matthew chapter 13, verse 44. I'm going to share a little scripture today with you. that is really going to help you in your life. And if while I'm preaching the microphone pops and struggles and strains underneath the weight of this anointing, I will scream so loud that the dude in the back row will fall down the stairs from the shock until my voice is raw. and the Lord will speak.
- Now listen to this. This is Matthew chapter 13, verse 31 and 32, and Matthew chapter 13, verse 44. “Jesus told them another parable. He said, the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field, though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree so that the birds come and perch in its branches. Wow. Verse 44. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. And then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”
- I have a word from the Lord for you today. The Lord told me to tell you it's worth the dirt. It's worth the dirt. Father, these moments in your presence are precious. We pray for your protection and a hedge of your glory around each of your children today so that they can receive what you speak. However it comes out, this is your word and your church. In Jesus' name. Amen. Touch your neighbor and tell them it's worth the dirt on your way to your seat. I know you had to wait for this sermon, but it's going to be worth it.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Transcript of Sermon:

- Now I have a feeling that this microphone is not going to hold up today, but I think what I'm going to do is I'm just going to preach this as awkward as it needs to be preached, unless that becomes so distracting that we can't take it. And if somebody wants to run to target and buy me a megaphone, I'll preach through that as well.
- You know, God is so good. He teaches us to discern in different seasons of our life whether or not something is worth it. And maturity is learning to see when something will be worth it and embrace it. And when it's not worth it, to walk away. That's what maturity is. Being mature in your faith, it's about recognizing when it's worth it. and when it isn't worth it. And not only recognize it, but walk away when it's not worth it.
- Tell your neighbor, just practice real quick, say, it's not even worth it. It's not even worth it. It's not even worth it. Some things are, some things aren't. For years, when I would go watch Graham wrestle, usually I would spend my Saturdays in a sweaty gym that smelled like boy. It smelled like the worst parts of a boy. By about two o'clock in the afternoon, it would be cooking in that oven.
- The reason I know that it was worth it is because the first time he ever won a big wrestling tournament, I said to him afterwards, man, I'm so glad I was here to see it. Now, the reason that I almost wasn't there was because I had to bring in a guest preacher to preach for me. in order to be at this tournament. And there was a part of me sitting there like, man, thousands of people that need the gospel and then my son's wrestling, I don't know what to do. Is it worth it to not preach to go watch him in this tournament? So he wins the whole thing, right?
- And we're sitting at Pizza Hut, where all of my food addiction issues began with the book at club. I'm serious, all of my food reward issues It started in the fourth grade, reading the babysitter's club and getting pizza for it. Shouldn't have confessed that. Well, we're sitting there at Pizza Hut celebrating his gold medal. And I said, man, I'm so glad I came. What if you'd have won the whole tournament? I hadn't been here to see it. And he said, well, if you hadn't been here to see it, I probably wouldn't have won it.
- If you hadn't been here to see it, I probably wouldn't have won it. So every time I'd be hauling my butt into a gym with some boy's feet propped up on the bleachers behind me, I mean, at a wrestling tournament, they turned the whole gym into a locker room. It's awesome. It's incredible. And in a room full of half-naked men packed to the gills and me sitting there in the middle of all of it with my OCD, I'm going, it's worth it, it's worth it, it's worth it, it's worth it, it's worth it. Not just because he's gonna go to the Olympics, but because he told me it's worth it. Tell somebody, sometimes it's worth it. Sometimes you got to preach with the mic popping because it's worth it.
- Sometimes you got to come out to church a day early on a Saturday because it's worth it. Sometimes it's worth it. And wisdom is knowing when it's worth it. Wisdom is the ability to hear that little whisper that God will give you from time to time and say, it's worth it. Stick with this. that relationship, it's worth it. And sometimes it's just a little whisper. God will encourage you in the moment where you feel like giving up and he'll say, no, no, no, it's worth it. Keep doing it, it's worth it. Just whisper to your neighbor, say, it's worth it. Not tell them to say, it's worth it when it's worth it.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- But you know what, I had a moment the other day and it happened when I was bending down to tie my shoes and Holly was in the other room laughing at me. And she said, babe, you're tying your shoes like you are 88. And I said, I know, babe, I can't help it. That's the price that I pay for this physique. It just comes with soreness. And she said, yeah, but the trade-off, like you look great, but do you really have to go that hard on leg day that you can't tie your shoes? And I had a moment standing there in the closet, listening to my wife mock me.
- A moment of maturity where I decided, you know what? She's right. This is not worth it. Even though that lady at the gym 15 years ago made fun of me and said, do you ever do leg day? And created a complex inside of me while I was wearing my shorts. I was bending down to tie my shoes and something just hit me real quick. Like, you know what? Nobody is looking at your hamstrings. Nobody. Not even Holly wants to see your hamstrings. So just wear some sweats and cover your quads. What are you trying to be, a quad model? And that was the last day I ever did heavy squats. Because it's not... Worth it. I came to set somebody free from leg day today. You're too old for that now. You're not supposed to be going down that deep. If the Lord would have made you to bend down like that, he'd have put hinges on your hips. It's not helping anybody, and nobody is looking at your calves. Cover them up. It's not worth it. Wear some baggy jeans. Tie your shoes and be happy.
- In Matthew chapter 13, what a transition. Pulling out all the stops today on snow day. In Matthew chapter 13, Jesus is giving a very important lesson to his disciples on what's worth it. Because he knows there will be a time soon to come when he goes to the cross and their commitment to him will be challenged by that cross. See, they left a lot to follow him. They left their fishing businesses. They left their tax collecting agencies. Many of them even left their family's approval to follow this wonder working rebel priest named Jesus of Nazareth, who was considered a heretic by many. And at the moment that he could have called the Legion of Angels to get him down off the cross and did. And I wonder, did they wonder, was it worth it? And I wonder who I'm preaching to today that wonders, is it worth it? Is it worth it for me to keep serving God? It doesn't seem to be doing me any good. Is it worth it for me to keep being pure as a teenager? Everybody else is having more fun than I am. Is it worth it for me to be the weird kid that doesn't get invited to the parties because I have a standard of purity? And I have a direction of destiny. I have learned at this stage of my life how important it is.
- That we are not driven by external things. and others focused metrics of what matters. You have to decide what is worth it from within. You have to, or else you'll jump on every trend, or else you will burn yourself out and then ask God to light your fire. But God can't light a fire when you don't have the priorities to put his presence first in your life. And I think this is your year to decide what's worth it to you and to commit to what is and to walk away from what isn't. This is not permission to quit your job because I bet you like that check. That check is kind of worth it. It's kind of worth it. It's kind of worth your boss's bad breath, isn't it? The health insurance is kind of worth it. That dental insurance make you make you put up with a lot of stuff.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- See, I think it's very difficult for us in the moment to know, is it worth it? It's easy to look back and say that wasn't worth it. It's easy to look back and say that was worth it. Where the Holy Spirit comes in is to look at something and to realize this is worth it. And the Lord will whisper, it's worth it. I know it doesn't look like much, but it's worth it. I know it's hard for you and nobody's appreciating you, but it's worth it. I've called you to it. And then the Holy Spirit will whisper to you. Sometimes it's not worth it. I know you want to tell them off. save your breath. It's not worth it. I know you want to put them in their place and you can do it, but it's not worth it. You're going to be sore tomorrow. If you go off today, now you're going to have to apologize and create more work for yourself. Just put it in the comments. It's not worth it.
- I learned that about leg day, but I'm still learning it about life. I'm learning that it is not worth it for me to respond to every criticism. I mean, let's be honest. I've had my fair share of practice. How many of y'all that go to this church have ever heard somebody say something bad about me? How many of you wanted to punch him in the mouth? I love y'all. That's our real church right there.
- One of my friends asked me one time, he's like, pastor, don't you feel like the staff you got around you is too saved? Don't you feel like you need a few barely saved just out of prison ministry staff around you just to handle the nonsense? I thought, no, it's not worth it. Peter didn't get this. When they came to get Jesus, he started cutting off ears. And Jesus said, what is this? It's not worth it. Worth it. Nothing can stop me from going to the cross because that's what God sent me to do. It's not worth it. That phrase right there will set you free. It's not worth it. It's not worth it.
- Because if I defend myself to a critic and I win, what have I won? A critic who changed their mind? What prize do I get for changing their mind? If I change your mind, I get what? See, I might win an argument, but it's too expensive because it cost me my peace. So I'd rather keep my peace than win an argument.
- Jesus is helping his disciples to discern what's worth it. And that's what he's doing in your life right now. He's allowing some things to be pruned. He's allowing some things to be moved. He's allowing some people that were in your life to move to a different circle. It's not that you don't love them. It's just that you can't invest in everybody in this season of your life. And so God graciously moves people into different seasons so that you can focus on what's right in front of you. So God can show you what's right. worth it.
- That's why God lets you have that really bad hangover so you could realize this is not worth it. I don't want to pass this crap on to my kids. I don't want them to have to struggle with this addiction because it's not worth it. And in Matthew chapter 13, we get two parables of seven that are mentioned by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew. They are the mysteries of the kingdom. One of those mysteries is the mystery of the mustard seed, and one is the treasure in the field. And what they both hold in common to me is not apparent on the surface. He told them another parable, the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- **That's a beautiful scripture to me because a mustard seed is indeed the parabolic smallest seed that was known at the time. Not technically, but it was commonly accepted to say it's as small as a mustard seed. Go on. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree so that the birds come and perch in its branches. To me, this speaks to the temptation that I feel so often in my life to dismiss something that God is doing because of a small beginning.**
- Because of a small beginning. I can think of so many examples in my life where it was little until it wasn't. A little thing that almost seemed so inconsequential and it was little until it wasn't. And I found out when God speaks to us, he usually speaks little things to us. It's worth it. It's little until it isn't.
- What's the first thing that Jesus told Peter to do? Not leave your nets and follow me. He just said, put down the nets for a catch. Well, that's something that Peter did all the time. It was little until it wasn't. Because when Jesus told him to do the little thing, put down the nets for a catch. Jesus had a big thing in mind. Somebody say, God's got something big for me. Come on, you got to say that with some volume now. God's got something big for me.
- Say it again. God's got something big for me. It starts as a seed. And if you dismiss the seed, you miss the thing. The kingdom of heaven. What's it like, Jesus? Tell us what the kingdom of heaven is like. It's like the smallest sea. It's almost microscopic, but it can be miraculous. And it just takes time. It's worth it. It just takes time. It matters. It just takes time. And I have a phone full of proof. that everything that God does big starts small. I have a phone full of voice notes that have songs that we sing in our church that started as a little melody idea that we hummed into the phone. If you heard it, you would think I was having a nervous breakdown. It doesn't sound like a song. It doesn't sound like anything. It sounds like a mumble. It sounds like a mustard seed.
- But God turned some of those mumbles into anthems. that people can sing when they're looking at mountains. So now I remember, watch this. It's little until it isn't. It's little until it isn't. One day David was told by his father to carry some cheese and bread to the battle lines to his brothers. Well, that's a little thing. All he's doing at this point that I can tell is doing an Uber driver's job with the king's anointing. But David sets out to do a little thing. And he takes his little cheeses and his little breads from watching his little sheep with his little self, the smallest brother. And he shows up little. But when he gets to the battle lines, he hears the shout of a big giant. This giant is nine feet tall. So now all of a sudden, what was little that morning, take this meal to your brothers, turned into the biggest opportunity of his life. Because it's little. Till it isn't. Say it. It's little. Till it isn't. This side say. It's little. This side say. Till it isn't.
- Elijah the prophet told his servant, go check the sky. I hear the sound of the abundance of rain. It's getting stormy. I know there's been a drought in the land. And the servant came back seven times and said, there's nothing there. And on the seventh time, not the sixth, the seventh, he came back and said, well, I see a cloud, but it's little. It's just the size of a man's hand. And Elijah said, well, you better tell Ahab, hitch up his chariots because it might be little now, but it is loaded. and I came to preach to somebody's life, it might be little now going back to get your degree.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- It might be little now having integrity on your job. It might be little now making your first appointment with a trainer. It might be little now putting the Word of God in your kid's heart, dragging them to church. It might be little now reading a verse a day. It might be little now, but little as much of God is in it. Jesus was preaching one day. The crowds were hungry. He told the disciples to feed them. And he asked them, what do you have? They said, just a little bit. There's a little boy with a little lunch and a big crowd with a few loaves. And what we have is little.
- And it's little till it isn't. And when he touched it, what was little became leftovers. Because it's only little till it isn't. Come on, give God a little praise. Little praise. Little praise. Little praise. Little praise. Little praise. Little praise. I see a cloud the size of a man's hand. I see it rising in your life. Or maybe I should say, I see a cloud the size of a man's hand, and I see a seed the size of a mustard seed. And Jesus said some of the most significant things God will do in your life will be some of the smallest things when they start.
- All right. If I sent you home right now, I think it was worth it. Just to encourage you with that much. It's little till it isn't. Can I break that down a little more, though? I want to make it worth your while. Tell somebody it's worth it. It's worth it to come to church. It's worth it to put on your uncomfortable shoes and your pants that don't have an elastic waistband and get in the house of God and get in a place where you can hear. And it is worth it to devote yourself to the word of God. And I'm going to tell you something right now about the mustard seed that became a tree.
- And I don't know if you can. Kind of make this jump with me, but it's not only true about the kingdom that it's little until it isn't. But it's also true about compromise. It's little. Till it isn't. Is one glass of wine. till you go through something that makes you need three and five and seven. I wish y'all would look at me like that.
- **What, I'm not allowed to have a standard in my life? I'm not telling you not to drink. What I am saying about this is that I had people make fun of me almost every year of my teenage and adult life when they found out that I have chosen I can't handle alcohol. And they're like, what? Do you think it's a sin? I'm like, no, I don't think it's a sin. I just think for me, it's slippery. It's slippery. Because I know me. And I am already addicted to enough stuff. I do not need to invite chemical demons into places. where I already have plenty of dysfunction. You know what I'm saying? I'm not inviting a gang of demons into my life when my dad struggled with it and his dad struggled with it.**
- And the Lord gave me a real revelation about this one day. I was watching a famous celebrity and they were on a talk show and they were celebrating like 17 years of sobriety and everybody clapped for them. Everybody clap, 17 years sober, that's amazing. Everybody clap for them. Everybody was clapping. The whole studio audience was clapping. I thought, that's crazy, they will clap for that.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- But if a teenager decides I'm not gonna drink, everybody will make you feel like a fool. So why do we celebrate after they have made such a mess that they need a miracle to make it right? But we can't celebrate when you put the measures in your life to keep you from the evil in the first place. So if we can celebrate recovery, we can celebrate pre-recovery. It means that I can make some little decisions in my life that might keep a guardrail up for the future. Because it's little till it isn't. It's little till it isn't. And you're saying, what does this have to do with dirt? You said it's worth the dirt. That's your title. What does dirt have to do with decisions?
- I was looking at these parables. You know, the one I preached about a few weeks ago was the wheat and the weeds. I preached about that, how the enemy will always do something right beside whatever God does in order to try to get you discouraged and get you to give up. And I do feel like that I'm preaching to a lot of people today who are discouraged either by the seeming insignificance of what God has called you to do. I mean, good Lord, what parent in the room has not been discouraged to think none of this matters? All the little things you do for your kids, all the things they don't say thank you for, all the little pieces of advice you try to give, all the little things that you may do that go unnoticed, all of the little ways you try to correct. There's nobody in here who hasn't felt the idea of this isn't worth it.
- Or at the very least, this isn't working. And it's not worth it because it's not working. It's not this, nothing's getting better. But notice something about the mustard seed. It became what it was in an unseen place. Notice, the mustard seed was very small, the smallest of all seeds. Yet, verse 32 says, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants. Now I just need to preach this like it's Bible study, okay? I'm gonna talk to y'all not like you're a Sunday morning crowd. I'm gonna talk to you like you're a seminary class. It doesn't say when it grows, it becomes the largest of garden plants. It says when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants.
- That means it already was when it went in the ground. It just needed somewhere to grow. What made the difference between the mustard seed being this big and being this big? What made the difference was the dirt. We don't like dirt. We don't like dirt. We like shine. We don't like dirt. We like dreams. We don't like dirt. We don't like dirty churches. We go around to churches and if one church has a problem with it, we'll leave that church and go to another church. And you know, some of us were going from church to church looking for dirt and we are drawn to the church because that church helped me and that church blessed me. But stay around any church long enough. You'll find dirt. I mean, even the purest church, even the church that says like, we're the real church.
- We preach the real gospel. We preach the real truth. They got dirt. They've got dirt. I promise you, I have lived to see the days when some of the most judgmental people that I ever met in my life turned out to be the most jacked up people that I ever met in my life. And the reason they were so mean is because they were so messed up. And rather than admit they were messed up, they just decided to be mean. So let me go ahead and save you a lot of trouble.
- This church has dirt. The person you're sitting next to has dirt. The person that you're sitting next to has some things that they carry with them that they're not proud of. And if you meet them in the wrong place, they might not have a good response. But notice in the passage that it was the dirt. I'm not glorifying sin, but it was the dirt. It was something that we try to remove. It was something that we don't value that made the mustard seed become something that you would not see on the surface. This trial that you're going through, this shame that you're dealing with, this issue that you're pushing through, whether or not you grow from it depends on how you interpret the dirt.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

Transcript of Sermon:

- Because if I see the dirt as a place to avoid, I will never go through the processes that will make me grow. And I'll run from church to church looking for a church with no dirt. But can I tell you something? You grow in the dirt. You grow in community. You grow when you have to work through conflict. Quit switching people and start letting God change you. It can't grow if it never gets planted. You can't grow if you never get planted. And yes, there come times to leave jobs, and yes, there come times to leave relationships, and yes, there comes time to leave churches. But I wanna tell you that some of us never produce our potential because we are never planted in our purpose.
- And sometimes you just have to decide this is worth it. Devil, you can't have it. This is worth it for fighting for me. Now, that might not be. Devil, you can have that. I'll pay you to take it. This is not worth it. But this is worth it. The word of the Lord for somebody is this one's worth it. This one's worth it. I know it's small. I know you don't see it right now. I know it's taking longer than you thought. I know the momentum is tricky right now. I know the winds are against you. But this one's worth it. This is not just anything you cannot keep this cycle up of running from things. When they get hard, you will never grow that way. This one's worth it. And I know it's dirty. I know it's messy. I know it's sloppy. I know it'll be easier for you to just hide.
- But this one is worth it. It's worth the dirt. That's where it grew. It's worth the dirt. That's where it learned to break through. It's worth the dirt. And yet there's another parable, another parable that Jesus told about dirt. He talked in Matthew 13, 44 about how the kingdom of heaven is also like. Now watch this. In the first parable, he's talking about a tree that has to go into the dirt to become what it already is. In this parable, he's talking about a treasure. that is hidden in the dirt, but it does not lessen its value. For he said, the kingdom of heaven, 44, is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. And then in his joy, he went and sold everything he had. He was happy. He was putting everything on eBay and happy because the kingdom of God is like this. It's so precious, it's such a priority. The kingdom of God is such a treasure. When he found it, he sold everything he had and bought the treasure, right? Wrong. It does not say he bought the treasure. He bought the field.
- And the last time I checked, fields are made of dirt. And the last time I checked in Genesis 1 verse 7, you are made of dirt. And when God created you, he reached down into the earth. The dirt. God didn't make you from stars. God reached down into the dirt. And when he breathed on what was dirty, the breath of what is holy. In Genesis, it says that the man became a living being because God says the dirt is worth it. When I breathe on it, it's worth it. When I speak to it, it's worth it. Matthew 13, 44 taught me about marriage. It says that a man found a treasure. The kingdom of God is like a man who found a treasure. And he was so happy about the treasure that he sold everything he had.
- Number one, it taught me that marriage means I'm going to be broke, buying stuff I don't even want. Number two, it taught me that when I bought Holly, her ring. Y'all didn't know where I was going with that. What kind of marriage do y'all have? Y'all, when I bought her ring, I spent every dollar I had on the ring. \$3,000. \$3,000 in 2002. Adjust that for inflation. Big money to your boy. But I did it. I was happy to do it. I met with this shady dude up in a pawn shop somewhere. I said, now how do I know it's real? He showed me all these papers. I believed him. Now I've upgraded her ring. for every decade that she has dealt with me, just to remind her, just to remind her that it's worth. Get that diamond a little bit bigger just to remind her. In case she forgets, I'm sure she doesn't. I've been looking back on that.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- Is anybody engaged in the room today? Anybody engaged to be married? For real, we're, congratulations. You got a ring and everything, a ring pop. Do you really, do you really have a fiance? Is that part true? Show me good job.
- I'm so happy for you, but this is one thing I want you to understand. And I really want to use this as an example for everybody in the room. When I put the ring on Holly's finger. I got down on one knee at Furman University. She said, I do. But she didn't say I do to the diamond. She said I do to the dirt. So I just wanna say, you're saying I do to the dirt because the man didn't buy the treasure, he bought the field that the treasure was in. So when she said, I do, she was saying, I do to the dirt. Now, it would have been easy at that point in our relationship for her to say, I do to my anointing because she'd seen me operate in ministry.
- She had seen me go and minister and I would preach just like I preach now. I was always passionate. I was always edgy. I always said things that I went back and thought later I shouldn't have said it like that. But I always had heart. And she would see me try to break through a room and give people an opportunity to meet Jesus where they were. And I know that's one of the reasons that she fell in love with me. And I know that she was saying I do to my anointing because she felt like God had called us together to minister. And it was a lifelong thing. And I know she said yes to my anointing. anointing, my treasure, but she was also saying I do to my anxiety.
- Because what she never could have known is that behind the anointing to preach is the anxiety that is the constant companion of God's call. And when she said I do to the diamond, she was saying I do to the dirt. And the woman that has sat on the front row to hear me preach, and the woman that has been around the world to hear me preach, and the woman that has gotten two upgrades on her diamond goes home and accepts the dirt. Not that I'm a hypocrite. Not that there is a darkness in my life that is the result of me not knowing God. But everybody has a treasure in the field. Everybody has a diamond and a dirt.
- You know, she said to me last night, I said, babe, I'm all out of whack. I'm preaching a day early. I don't know why I feel anxious. I'm sorry. I feel anxious so much. She said, stop apologizing for it and tell me how I can help you. What she's saying, she's saying, she's saying, I do the dirt. We need some people. whether it's husbands, wives, staff members at Elevation Church.
- **We need some people, Christians, believers, moms, dads, students. We need some people who will say, you know what? I don't just run around from field to field when it gets dirty. I don't just run around from trend to trend chasing stuff to fix my life. I'm not a quick fix Christian. I do dirt, and you will find me praising God, and you will find me fulfilling purpose, and you will find me on my post. I didn't just say I do to the diamond. I don't just show up when it's shiny. I show up with a shovel. I do dirt. If the sound goes out, I'll say it again. If the snow comes down, I'll preach it early. If hell breaks loose, I'll come out on fire. Because I do dirt. If I go broke, I've never seen the righteous forsaken. If they hate me, he loves me. I do dirt. Because God does dirt. God does dirt, not only in creation, but in incarnation.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- For God saw man in his dirt, in his filth, in his blood, in his works, in his salvationless state, in his worst moment, and God from heaven sent Jesus from a throne, from a throne to a cross. Who would pay such a price for the sin of the world. Here's your king crucified. What's he saying? I do dirt. And when Jesus paid for you on Calvary, he didn't just buy diamonds. He bought dirt. I'm thankful. for a God who does dirt. I'm grateful that he looks at me covered in all of the things that I should have cast off and said, it's worth the dirt. It's worth the dirt. It's worth being misunderstood sometimes. It's worth the dirt. This right here, this one's worth it. This one ain't. This one is.
- And when God whispers, it's worth it. It's worth the dirt. Like a treasure hidden in a field. Can't see it on the surface. Write this down. You don't trip over treasure. You dig it out. Stopped looking for God to put stuff on the surface. This one he dug for. It was hidden. If it ain't buried, it probably ain't treasure. And that's why in this season of your life, you're having to fight through some difficulties. You're having to fight through some dirt. But the dirt served a purpose. It made the mustard seed. Watch this branch out.
- Now notice, the baby seed was so small you couldn't see it. But in the end of the parable, Jesus said, this seed that is not big, it's little until it isn't. And by the end of this seed's time in the dirt, it had branches coming out the ground. Show them verse 32. I want you to see it with your own eyes. He said, and the branches are so big that the birds come and perch in the branches. I don't know if you can receive this or not. But the battle that you have been going through in your life, the battle is for the branches.
- Because when the tree gets done growing, it's gonna be like this. Now it's like this. And you've been wondering, why is the devil picking on me? I'm nobody. Why is it so hard for me? I'm nothing. It's because of your branches. It is because that God wants to use you to bring generational blessing to people who will come after you. That's what the battle is about. I look back on this time in our church when the devil was after us when we were young, and I know why he came after us when we were young, because of you. If we died while we were young, we never would have reached you. If this church did not exist, if he could have snatched the seed, Matthew chapter 3 verse 3, if he could have taken the seed and scorched it with the sun, Matthew chapter 13 verse 5, if he could have taken the seed and choked it out with the worries of this life, it would not be spreading to the earth today.
- And I would not be able to look into this camera and tell you that Jesus saves and Jesus cleanses and God does dirt and the cross is God saying, I came for this. The battle was for the branches. Is that not true of you? Did God not know what was in you when he put you in the situation? You have to trust that it's worth the dirt. See, because I've seen God move mountains. I've seen God make ways. And now that I've seen what a tree can be, I understand what I am fighting for. I understand that the battle is for your branches. You've got to get free. You've got to get back. You've got to bounce from this. You've got to recover. You've got to move forward. You've got to show them what it looks like when we do it anyway. You've got to.
- The battle is not over your seed. The battle is over your tree. The battle is over your branches. And when I see what God is doing in this church, even when I see it in my own family, do you understand that the devil has fought me so hard through the years? So many times I've wanted to quit. It's not worth it. And I know you felt that way too. If a preacher feels that way, surely you feel that way. I preach to souls for a living. Sometimes all you feel like you do is organize chaos. But one night this summer, I was walking through our house, and Elijah and Graham and Abby were there upstairs.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- Down at the bottom of the stairs on a Sunday night, there was this... Well, just show them real quick. This picture I want to give you. I don't know if you can see it real good, but that's shoes. That's the shoes of about 100 teenagers. Those shoes smell like wrestling gym on a Saturday afternoon, same smell. And all these shoes at the bottom of my stairs and all this noise in my house. And downstairs were the shoes. And upstairs in our house, was Graham, Abby, Elijah's over there somewhere, my wife is downstairs, the shoes are at the thing, and upstairs was some kids, now show them the video. Jumping, singing, praising the Lord. As long as I'm breathing, I got a reason to breathe. And the ceiling was shaking too. And the ceiling was shaking. And the ceiling was shaking.
- And I walked upstairs and said, y'all got to get out. This is not the new Testament. I know they tore off the roof in the new Testament, but my homeowner's insurance doesn't cover it go outside. But I got the picture that downstairs show them the picture. Downstairs was the dirt and upstairs was the worship and downstairs was the dirt and upstairs was the worship and downstairs was the process and upstairs was the praise. And I'm trying to get you to see that you can worship God because the dirt is worth it. God does dirt. I prepared this word today hoping that it would go out online to our entire church community all over the world. But if one of you today needed to hear the whisper of God saying, it's working, then it's working. Everybody does the diamonds. God does the dirt. With your head bowed and your eyes closed, receive the mystery of the parable of the mustard seed and the treasure in the field. It's that God does dirt. No matter what the enemy has thrown on your life to try to stop you from growing, it won't work. It's only going to grow you more. Yes, Lord, I'll say it again. It's only going to grow you more. Amen.
- Whatever it is. It's worth the dirt. It's worth you going through a season of repentance. To live a life healed. It's worth the dirt. It's worth God stripping some things away. So he can bring some things forth. There is treasure inside of you. I know people don't like it when I preach like this. They say, oh, well, tell them how sinful they are. You know that already.
- **Closing Prayer #1: “I came to remind you, God does dirt. He breathes on brokenness. It's worth it. Jesus stretched his arms because it's worth it. I encourage you today. Say I do to the dirt. Make a commitment in your life. Lord, no matter how long it takes me, I believe you can wash me clean. God, here I am again, dirty again, disappointed again. But I heard you do dirt. I heard you came from heaven, lived in a little town called Nazareth. And died on a cruel cross. Splinters in your back, lashes. The wounds in your side, the nails in your hands. I heard you do dirt. Father, would you take my life today? All that I am, all that I'm not. My little loaves, my little mustard seed life and bring branches forth from them. Father, I pray today for those who are feeling alone or abandoned or forsaken. Maybe they've even buried their hope. As I pray to you, Lord, I'm reminded that the seed appeared to be buried, but it was indeed planted. That means it served a purpose. I thank you that the dirt is serving a purpose in each of our lives. And I thank you that there is a treasure that the world cannot touch.**
- **Closing Prayer #2: “We thank you that the kingdom of heaven is that treasure. You're worth it, Lord. Not just what you do for us, but who you are to us. You are worth it. You're worthy of our worship. You're worthy of our praise. You're worthy of our lives.” And now, God, I commend these treasures in a field to you, the diamonds and the dirt. I thank you that you know what you're doing. You know where you planted them. I thank you that they're growing by grace. Thank you for this word that we received today. We will never be the same.”**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- With heads still bowed and eyes still closed, there's somebody who's hearing this message today, and you need to give your life to Jesus Christ. You don't have to clean yourself up to come to God. That's why God came to you. He does the cleaning. You do the coming. You come to him like you are and you won't leave that way. Jesus will change you. Jesus will save you to the uttermost. Call on the name of the Lord and you will be saved. So I'm going to pray a prayer right now. And if you want to give your life to Jesus, repeat this prayer after me. We're gonna pray it out loud in the room for the benefit of those all over the world who are coming to Christ in this moment. Repeat after me, Heavenly Father. Heavenly Father. I am a sinner. I am a sinner. In need of a savior. In need of a savior. And I believe. And I believe. That Jesus Christ. That Jesus Christ. Is the son of God. Is the son of God. And the savior of the world. And the savior of the world. And today. And today. I make Jesus. I make Jesus. The Lord of my life. The Lord of my life. I believe he died. that I would be forgiven, was buried and rose again to give me life. I receive your life. Here's mine. I am a child of God. I am a new creation. On the count of three, if you prayed that prayer, shoot your hand in the air. One, two, three. Or if you're watching online, put it in the chat. Say, I receive Jesus.

Part 2: eGroup study questions

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

•Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- **“Maturity is learning to embrace what is worth it and walk away from what is not.”**

•Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- **“Creative process: mumbled voice notes (seeds) became anthems sung against mountains.”**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

•Elevation Sermon Notes – “It’s Worth The Dirt” by Pastor Steven Furtick on January 25, 2026

- **So what is dirt as defined by Pastor Furtick?**

- **So what is dirt as defined by Pastor Furtick?**
- **“When it grows, it is the largest of garden plants.” The seed already contained its potential; dirt (process, pressure, imperfection) made it visible.**
- **“Dirt” symbolizes hidden, messy, and uncomfortable conditions—trials, shame, conflict, church imperfections. Growth requires planting; avoiding dirt stalls maturity.**
-

- **“What, I'm not allowed to have a standard in my life? I'm not telling you not to drink. What I am saying about this is that I had people make fun of me almost every year of my teenage and adult life when they found out that I have chosen I can't handle alcohol. And they're like, what? Do you think it's a sin? I'm like, no, I don't think it's a sin. I just think for me, it's slippery. It's slippery. Because I know me. And I am already addicted to enough stuff. I do not need to invite chemical demons into places. where I already have plenty of dysfunction. You know what I'm saying? I'm not inviting a gang of demons into my life when my dad struggled with it and his dad struggled with it.”**

- **We need some people, Christians, believers, moms, dads, students. We need some people who will say, you know what? I don't just run around from field to field when it gets dirty. I don't just run around from trend to trend chasing stuff to fix my life. I'm not a quick fix Christian. I do dirt, and you will find me praising God, and you will find me fulfilling purpose, and you will find me on my post. I didn't just say I do to the diamond. I don't just show up when it's shiny. I show up with a shovel. I do dirt. If the sound goes out, I'll say it again. If the snow comes down, I'll preach it early. If hell breaks loose, I'll come out on fire. Because I do dirt. If I go broke, I've never seen the righteous forsaken. If they hate me, he loves me. I do dirt. Because God does dirt. God does dirt, not only in creation, but in incarnation.**

- Closing Prayer #1: “I came to remind you, God does dirt. He breathes on brokenness. It's worth it. Jesus stretched his arms because it's worth it. I encourage you today. Say I do to the dirt. Make a commitment in your life. Lord, no matter how long it takes me, I believe you can wash me clean. God, here I am again, dirty again, disappointed again. But I heard you do dirt. I heard you came from heaven, lived in a little town called Nazareth. And died on a cruel cross. Splinters in your back, lashes. The wounds in your side, the nails in your hands. I heard you do dirt. Father, would you take my life today? All that I am, all that I'm not. My little loaves, my little mustard seed life and bring branches forth from them. Father, I pray today for those who are feeling alone or abandoned or forsaken. Maybe they've even buried their hope. As I pray to you, Lord, I'm reminded that the seed appeared to be buried, but it was indeed planted. That means it served a purpose. I thank you that the dirt is serving a purpose in each of our lives. And I thank you that there is a treasure that the world cannot touch.

- Closing Prayer #2: “We thank you that the kingdom of heaven is that treasure. You're worth it, Lord. Not just what you do for us, but who you are to us. You are worth it. You're worthy of our worship. You're worthy of our praise. You're worthy of our lives.” And now, God, I commend these treasures in a field to you, the diamonds and the dirt. I thank you that you know what you're doing. You know where you planted them. I thank you that they're growing by grace. Thank you for this word that we received today. We will never be the same.”

Back up slides

In August 2017, Pastor Furtick led a study of David called “Bars and Battles.” I think Pastor Furtick’s sermon this weekend “Not as Long as My Song” builds of this prior series. On August 13, 2017, Pastor Furtick said this while unpacking Psalm 142 and 1 Sam 22 – where Saul is trying to kill David: “We have to learn to trust God and keep our hand on the harp. This means that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (fleshy or bodily), they are mighty through God for the pulling down of strong-holds – so it might not look like much – but our worship is our weapon. If you humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, and trust him – no matter what is coming at your head, no matter what is coming at your life – if you trust him and duck – and trust him and pray – the hand of God is on your life. Therefore, if you can win the battle here (your heart) – if you can get down low enough to say God I need you – and realize that the real battle is not with Saul – it is with self. Before David become a king and before God calls us to do what we are supposed to do, we need to learn to do the hardest thing to do – to depend. The easiest thing for David to do was to fight – this came naturally to him – the hardest thing for David to do was to be humble and depend – where David has to depend on the hand of God for the spear to miss him.” Kev note: Dang that is good!



Oswald Chambers

July 18 – Daily Devotional:

“There is nothing miraculous about the things that we can explain. We command what we are able to explain, consequently it is natural to seek to explain. It is not natural to obey; nor is necessarily sinful to disobey. If one man says to another – You must and you shall, he brakes the human spirit and unfits it for God. Many a soul begins to come to God when he flings off being religious, because, there is only one master of the human heart, and that is not religion but Jesus Christ. But woe be to me if when I see Him I say – I will not. He will never insist that I do, but I have begun to sign the death warrant of the Son of God in my soul. When I stand face to face with Jesus Chris and say – I will not, **He will never insist, but I am backing away form the re-creating power of His redemption.**

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Sermon Discussion: "Allow Joy To Reintroduce Himself" by Tauren Wells on May 25, 2025



Dr. Timothy Keller

total freedom = lack of meaning and significance

What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that?

If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. **It is a person.**

The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.

Have a good navigational beacon in 2022:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there’s never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”