



## Guard Your Ground

January 25, 2026

Pastor John Jose



### I. INTRODUCTION: SETTING THE STAGE

- Brief historical perspective
- Acknowledgment of current events shaping the moment
- Connection to recent series: Planted • Growing • Fruitful
- Today's focus: Guard Your Ground

### II. THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD

- The truth of the Bible

**Hebrews 4:12–13 (MSG) – God means what He says. His Word cuts through doubt and defense, calling us to listen and obey**

### III. THE POWER OF GOOD SOIL

**Luke 8:15 (MSG) – Good hearts seize the Word and hold on until there's a harvest**

- They heard the Word, retained it, and with patience bring forth fruit

### IV. GOD'S DESIRE: FLOURISHING LIVES

**Psalm 92:13 – Those who are planted will flourish**

**Philippians 3:12-14 – Forgetting what is behind, pressing into what God has ahead**

**Joshua 24:15 – As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord**

**Acts 13:36 – David fulfilled God's will for his generation**

### V. THE PARABLE OF THE SOIL (LUKE 8)

- The Wayside – Seed stepped on, birds came and ate it
- Shallow / Rocky Soil – Grew quickly, no depth, withered and died
- Thorny Soil – Grew but got choked out

### VI. EVERYDAY APPLICATION: GUARDING MY GROUND

- The seed is good—the issue is the soil
- Positioning myself to receive the seed
- What's stepping on the seed?
- Who or what is living rent-free in my mind? (the birds)
- Removing rocks—even when it's not fun
- Cares of life, riches, and pleasures choking growth



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### VII. OUR RESPONSIBILITY

- Some plant, some water
- I have to receive
- I have to give

### VIII. A CALL TO DECISION

- The time has come to decide what stays and what goes

### IX. STANDING YOUR GROUND

**II Samuel 23:11-12 – Shammah stood and defended the bean field; the Lord brought the victory**

### X. CLOSING THOUGHT

- Guard your ground
- Protect what God has planted
- Your fruit matters to this generation