

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Sowers, Reapers, and Keepers!

Passage Background: The word *hear* is used nine times in this section. It means much more than simply listening to words. "Hearing" means listening with spiritual understanding and receptivity. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).¹

Jesus called this parable "**The Parable of the Sower**" (Matt. 13:18), but it could also be called "**The Parable of the Soils.**" The seed without the soil is fruitless, and the soil without the seed is almost useless. The human heart is like soil: if it is prepared properly, it can receive the seed of the Word of God and produce a fruitful harvest.²

Today's Big Question: How do you respond after you hear God's Word?

Luke 8:1-15 (NKJV): Many Women Minister to Jesus

8 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him,² and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons,³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

The Parable of the Sower

⁴ And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

The Purpose of Parables

⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"

¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that

¹ Quote from Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 200). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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'Seeing they may not see,
And hearing they may not understand.'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Sowers, Reapers, and Keepers!

1. Smart sowers invest in that which is eternal (v. 1-3).

- There are at least two things that will endure forever: The Word of God & the Souls of People. The wise steward will invest his/her time, talent, and treasures in that which is eternal.
- Notice that Jesus preached "the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God." What is the essence of Jesus' Gospel message?

10 Amazing Truths about the Gospel:

- 1) The Good News is that God still loves you.
- 2) The Good News is that God has a wonderful plan for your life.
- 3) The Good News is that Jesus died in your place so that He can one day take you to His place!
- 4) The Good News is that you can have all of your sins forgiven—past, present, and future when you place your complete faith in Jesus Christ as your turn from your sin and to the Savior!
- 5) The Good News is that you are now part of something so much bigger than yourself—the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God's rule and reign in the universe and in the hearts of Christians.
- 6) The Good News is that your story now has purpose and significance because your story is now part of HIS-Story!
- 7) The Good News is that you are now God's ambassador—representing God to the people He has placed in your life.
- 8) The Good News is that God is preparing a new place for you that is out of this world!
- 9) The Good News is that you will receive a new body that will never grow old and will have new capabilities that you have never experienced before!

10) The Good News is that God **NOW** lives inside of you, so you don't have to wait till you get to heaven to experience God's presence in your life.

- Jesus did something radical for His time and culture: He greatly used women in His ministry endeavors.
 - i. Mary Magdalene-She was controlled by 7 demons BEFORE she met Jesus.
 - ii. Joanna-She was from a wealthy family as her husband Chuza was King Herod's money manager.
 - iii. Susanna and many other gave financially to help support Jesus' ministry with the 12 Apostles.

2. **Smart sowers keep on sowing despite c_____ c_____** (v. 4-15).

- Notice that the farmer sowed his seed despite the setbacks (v. 5-7).
- The purpose of parables: To enlighten the faithful and to conceal "family truths" from the unrepentant and unfaithful (v. 9-10).

Scripture Insight: [8:10](#) Jesus' parables both concealed and revealed truths. His parables contained fresh teaching—**mysteries**—concerning **the kingdom of God**. The disciples were privileged to learn the truths of the parables. For other listeners, the parables served as judgments that concealed truth, as the reference to [Is. 6:9](#) indicates. On occasion, a parable was understood by an outsider but was not accepted, thus still functioning as a message of judgment ([20:9-19](#)).³

- Jesus' explanation of the parable (v. 11-15):
 - i. The seed is the Word of God (v. 11).
 - ii. The four soils represent **four different types** of people (v. 12-15).
- The seed fell on 4 types of soils.
 - 1) T_____ soil-People walk all over the seed. This soil represents the heart that never fully embraces the Gospel. The Gospel goes in one ear and out the other. →**This is the "wayside wonderer."**
 - 2) R_____ soil-the seed starts to grow but it never finishes what it had started. →**This is the "shallow seeker."**
 - 3) T_____ soil-the seed starts with great promise, but the promise was choked out by invaders from the surrounding area—weeds. The weeds began to choke the new and tender plan of all of its life. →**This is the "distracted disciple."**

W.E.E.D.S

W-W_____ within me come out when I least expect them.

E-E_____ what others have that begins to eat away at my soul.

E-E_____ that come against me that want to take me out.

³ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

D-D _____ that begin to draw me away from God.

S-S _____-_____ at the expense of my relationship with God and others.

- 4) F _____ soil-the seed finally made its way to good ground. This ground was fertile and ready to support an abundant and thriving life. The thriving life is a fruitful life. A hundred-fold is a 100x increase.

Scripture Insight: [8:4-8](#) In the ancient world, fields were sown sometimes before and sometimes after planting. Paths often cut through fields. Sometimes **seed** would take root on these paths, where it could not mature. In addition, some soil was rocky and also could not support a successful crop.⁴

Scripture Insight: [8:8](#) a hundred times. The average yield of seed was probably between seven and a half to tenfold. A hundredfold was a remarkably good harvest ([Ge 26:12](#)). *Whoever has ears to hear.* A phrase common to the language of a sage's riddles, Jesus invites the wise to consider the meaning.⁵

→This is the "devoted Disciple." →[The true Believer](#)

3. Smart sowers know that the h _____ is coming (v. 8, 15).

- The harvest is coming...so don't give up!
- The harvest is coming...so keep on sowing!
- The harvest is coming...if you don't stop sowing.

Heart questions: [What kind of soil \(heart\) are you?](#)

How much good fruit are you producing in your life?
Would God consider your heart "good soil"?
What kind of investment are you in God's Kingdom?

[Sermon in a Sentence:](#) A [faithful](#) disciple is always a [fruitful](#) disciple.

[Make a decision this week?](#) Please let us know on your Connection Card.

[Preview for next Sunday:](#) Secret Service Saints? Luke 8:16-21.

⁴ Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

⁵ Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.