

Luke 8.1-21

“Keep your Eyes on your Ears”

7 Chs Almost Everyone LOVES Jesus – except Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees

Espec WOMEN – 4 Gospels – Not One Woman, Speaks/Acts Negatively to J.

Luke Tells Most @ Women: Eliz, Mary, Anna, Peter mo-in-law, widow Nain, Sinful Woman at Pharisee’s house >> Last at Cross, 1st at Resurr > Preached 1st

Main Pt > v. 18 “Take care then how you hear”/ “keep your eyes on your ears”

MEGA Parable – Mt, Mk, Lk >> Your Response to Word of God

Very Careful about HOW you Hear Word of God

THIS Parable Special Importance: Only 1 in all 3 of Synoptic Gospels

Luke shows Importance of Parable > Brackets w Important Stories @ WORD

Before: 8.1-4 Women on Team > Set Free Evil Spirits, 7 Demons, Diseases Taught Word (Rabbi’s forbid!) –

Support w \$ > Last @ Cross, 1st @ Resurrec

After: Mother & Brothers 3 X’s – OHANA! – v. 21 But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

Listening is ACTIVE, Not Passive > Determines our Eternal Destiny

Ingredients of the Parable – Sower, Seed, Soil

Sower is Jesus > v. 1 he went through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God.

v. 4 “he said in a parable” > “comparison” / to lay along side

Seed is Word of God v 11 “The seed is the word of God

Soils: ways people respond to God’s Word – word “HEAR” 9 X’s

Response of Seed reflects CONDITION of SOIL Where it Lands

If NO Hunger for Word of God > It will be Taken Away from You

Parable is Declaration of the Condition of our Hearts

1. Hardened Path

v. 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it”

v. 12 “The ones along the path are those who have heard”

Jesus & Disciples walking along path – many walked there – hard soil!

Birds followed the Sower of Seed > Getting Ready for Free Lunch

Some seed Falls on Hard Soil – Cannot Sink In – Too Hard

Result – The seed was eaten by the birds. It did not even take root.

Some HEAR Gospel Many Times: Makes NO Difference in Lives

Muslims who Follow Jesus hear Gospel AVG of 500 X's before

Unwillingness? Indifference? Bad Experiences? Prejudices?

Applic “Nothing in that message connects to anything in my life”

All Pie in the Sky Bye & Bye – But they're Thinking Only of This World

Business Failing, Sickness, Death, Marriage on Rocks, Price of Eggs

Want Quick Fix NOW – Not ready to Think of Heaven after I am DEAD

Not CONSIDER Word worthy of Serious Reflection > Who Needs That?

People must understand the message before they can be saved.

Simple PARABLE Everyone UNDERSTOOD...I Wish were TRUE!

Earthly Story with Heavenly Meaning / J praised SIMPLE & CLEAR

IS Simple but People DON'T Get It – Even Followers NOT Get It

Into Kitchen > Fresh Baked Cookies on Trays > Message? No SIGN

ME Try 3 or 4 see if they're Good? / WIFE – No! Save for Sunday/church

v. 10 Jesus: *“To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’*

Quote ISAIAH: Beautiful Message of God to JUDAH – Warned Babylon

Many Opportunities: Failed to REPENT > Judged by God CONCEALED

Messiah come for His People > Rejected by Leaders of ISRAEL

Jesus expects Different RESPONSES from Hearers

Seems Parables INTENDED to Block People more than Bring Them

Do spend 5 min asking God to teach you? One Minute? Five Seconds?

v. 8 Jesus called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Satan in active opposition whenever we share the Word.

v. 12 then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

We think the Devil is in Bars > Perhaps he is more active in the Church There is a present activity of Satan wherever the Word is preached

2. Shallow Soil

v. 6 some fell on rock & as it grew up, it withered away, bcse it had no moisture

v. 13 when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Shelf of Rock few inches of soil on top // like soil on Volcanic rock!

Sun came Up > Scorched > No Roots > No Chance for Fruit

Applic –Joyful response to Word is not always a saving response.

“ones who receive the word with joy...*They believe for a while*” Lk 8.13

Eager HEARERS find JUST what Needed > Peace, Forgiveness, Life

This is what I want! – I am finally Home! // Burst of FIRE @ Kindling

Some Happiest Memories My Life > Youth Group: Fun, Friends, Healthy!

2 X’s People said on 1st Visit “I am going to come here every week!”

v. 16 “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.

Jesus teaching is LIGHT that must SHINE for Sinners to be SAVED

If you have Something as USEFUL as God’s Word – USE IT! to Save Lives

Ever FIXED Tasty Dinner and then Scraped it all into GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Ever BUY a New Car then LOCK it in Your Garage Never Drive It?

Ever BUY Exercise Bike and then leave it in Spare Room hang Ironing on it??

Ever BUY Lamp put underneath your Couch? Even powered by Candle Flame?

We have HEARD Truth of God’s Word WHAT will we Do with It?

“This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!” Bold Commitment

What happens if we DO NOT Obey God’s Word? Held Accountable...

v. 17 For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.

v. 18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

“Those who listen to Him with a believing, surrendered, and obedient heart, will be given a deeper and more intensive insight into the spiritual life and into His Word, the indifferent and disobedient ones will lose even the little measurer of spiritual knowledge and joy of life which they possess” Norval Goldenhuys

Eager for blessings but they never count the costs of the Kingdom.

“Jesus calls a man to come and die” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Count the Cost > Jesus spoke this way to Great Multitudes

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple” Luke 14.26,27

ONCE SAVED – ALWAYS SAVED – ‘IF’ U R REALLY SAVED!

Troubles reveal state soul: Tribulation, Persecution, Temptation.

8 years Uganda – 4 coup’s - Shooting, Confusion, Running, Fear Small Country /

20 Armies running around – No Order – Kids with Guns

Churches got Filled – Many prayed be Saved! Ie. Not SHOT DEAD!

When Peace Restored > Jesus X wants all of me all the time!? Oh, I see!

I’m Glad Not get shot during Coup – New Gov’t, Don’t Need church!

Many Parents > Kids wandered away from God > Blame Bad Friends, etc.

Problems, Adversity, Failure, Disappointment > Drove them from GOD

Everything FINE until Problem >> NO, Problem Reveals Shallowness

IF Plant was Flourishing! All Conditions were there Grow...NO Deep Soil

v. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Problems can make you THRIVE or Shrivell Up

FAIR Weather Christians will Never grow to MATURITY

Tribulations work for GOOD in Real Believers w/ Deep ROOTS

James 1.12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Time is great revealer of the reality of the work of God’s grace.

v. 17 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us. 1 John 2.19

3. Thorny Soil

v. 7 some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it.

v. 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

Person who never truly repented of sin, thorns were already there.

“some fell among thorns” – thorns in 1st C Israel / Keawe in Kawaihae

Root system of thorns stronger than roots of Sower’s seed > Choked 3rd Person

CLOSEST to Salvation, Still OUTSIDE – Fruit NOT Mature

Give me this water! Go call husband!. She repented & rejoiced! John 4

Why Jesus MEAN? Loves so Much wants Salvation Deep Roots – Fruit!

Pleasure does not come from things of the world > Real joy from God

Dangers of being damned by innocent things of this world.

Housing – Food – Health Care – Education – Vacation – Not bad things!

Anxiety over Needs of life / do you trust God to meet your needs?

Desire > So focused on these good things they choke the Word

“It is quite possible to feel great pleasure, or deep alarm, under the preaching of the Gospel & yet be utterly destitute of the grace of God. The tears of some hearers of sermons & the extravagant delight of others, are of no certain marks of conversion. We may be warm admirers of favorite preachers & yet remain nothing better than stony-ground hearers”
JC Ryle

4. Good Soil

v. 8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

v. 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

***Application* – State of the soil determines the fate of the seed.**

1st Sermon in Uganda – 20 minutes > Rebuked by Pastor

Preaching > Looks like all activity is in the Pulpit

Result of Sermon depends on Preacher: Prepared? Boring? Short?

Preacher SHOULD be Prepared > Do their Best Job Possible

Jesus saying > Real Result of Sermon depends on Hearers > Soils

Condition of the Soil determines the Receptiveness of the Seed

Our Response to the Message is a Revelation of our Heart

Seed does Not Create Reaction > Revealed what was already there

Soil Unseen / Heart Unseen > Only see the Plant – Growth? Fruit? Death?

Only proof of a saving response to the gospel is bearing fruit.

“People who put God’s word into action grow in Christ, and as a result, they are able to learn more and more of his truth...as they share their faith, they come to a clearer understanding of the gospel...as they give money for God’s work...they eventually learn that everything they have belongs to thee Lord...knowledge builds on knowledge, especially when spiritual knowledge is put into practice”
Philip Ryken

Luke’s Literary Strategy > 2 Stories to Reinforce his Point

Reinforce THEME of Hearing & Doing God’s Word

Joseph and Mary had children after Jesus’s Virgin Conception

vs. 19 Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. 20 And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” 21 But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

“Jesus remark is not a repudiation of family, as much as it is an endorsement and exhortation to disciples to be receptive to the word” Darrell Bock

Jesus kept 5th Comm – Honored Father & Mother – even step-father Joseph

Ultimate Loyalty was to Heavenly Father – Being in His House most Impt.

Family of God is Eternal Relation – Highest Priority

Churches I served Members – Family Coming – Meet them Next Sunday

This Church – Family Coming even You Disappear for Month or So

Membership in the family of God is open and available to everyone who comes to Jesus Christ by faith. We can be as close Jesus as his own mother and brothers. Blood is thicker than water --- and we are brought near by His blood.
Philip Ryken

Jesus kidnaps People from Satan’s Landfill > Into his Family and his Ministry

Have you repented and believed? True Answer NOT looking Back

Look Mirror Now – Repentance Not Your History > Your Heart Now

Look in your Heart NOW for Living Relationship with Jesus
Gratitude, Love, Kindness: Sorrow for Continuous Sin and Failure

Only a direct work of God can produce salvation.

Know person truly believes when continue in fruit-bearing faith.

Psalm 5 / Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groaning.

**Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God,
for to you do I pray. / O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.**

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;
evil may not dwell with you.

The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. / **I will bow
down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.**

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; **their throat is an open
grave; they flatter with their tongue.**

Make them bear their guilt, O God;
let them fall by their own counsels;

because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;
let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may exult in you.

For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.