

Jesus Wisdom from God - Gospels

"Having Ears That Hear" – August 23, 2020



Introduction

Have you ever been concerned to see someone who starts the Christian life in love with Christ and later to have fallen away? Have you ever wondered how some people can physically hear the gospel message, but go away unchanged by such a precious message? Have you ever felt like you've missed the message when the word of God is spoken? Jesus tells a parable in Luke 8 that will help us better understand what it looks like to hear the message and hear it rightly so that it affects our whole being forever. Jesus shows us a glimpse of what it looks like behind the scenes as the word of God goes forth and people are there to hear it.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Read1

Read [Luke 8:4-15](#)

Parable breakdown

In this parable Jesus explains to us that the seed scattered is the word of God. The sowers are actually Jesus Himself and his followers. As Christians we are called to scatter the message of God across the world. We are to sow the seed despite the fact that we will find disappointing results in some that we share it with. What is the biggest hurdle for you to get over in order to freely share the gospel with others? What is your honest expectation when sharing the gospel with others? As sowers we must be people of faith and be willing to use all the tools God has given us to sow the seed. However, we also need to note that we are given the task to share God's message, but we are not responsible for the growth of the seed. We are not in charge of making it grow. ([1 Cor 3:6](#)) Thankfully, God is the one who changes hearts and minds.

This parable is clear that genuine faith is permanent. Genuine faith remains faithful to the end. It is founded by God and kept by God. The key to the Christian faith is perseverance as we've been studying in James. Perseverance makes us more like Christ from one degree to the next.

Below are the four examples Christ uses in the parable and they show the following:

1. **The hard and unresponsive heart.** The seed makes it near the ground, but it doesn't make it into the good soil. It's stolen by the birds or trampled on underfoot. It bears no fruit.
2. **The seed on the rocky ground.** This is the person who hears the gospel but doesn't grow in the good news. They have no moisture to grow. They become sapped by the sun and

life's trials of many kinds. It's not that this news doesn't sound great at first, but it wears off in the distress of life.

3. **The seed that falls in crowded or thorny soil.** This is the person who has a divided heart. They are double minded unstable in all that they do. The thorns grow up with the plan and right before it bears fruit the thorns suffocate the real plant out. This person isn't focused on the things of God.
4. **The fruitful heart:** The example here is the right response. This is those who hear God's word and bear fruit. This is what an honest and good response looks like to the good news of God to a fallen people. This is the person that sees God's goodness. They hold on to His word. They trust him and they are in it for the long haul. The person who is transformed by God's word perseveres until the end. The spiritual fruit that we see are such as listed in [Galatians 5](#). This is fruit that God brings about in our new hearts and minds as we patiently trust in Him with our whole lives day by day.

Which seed do you see growing in your heart? Do you see the weeds growing around you? Are you in love with the world more than you're in love with God's word? What is the biggest difference between the changed heart and the unsaved heart? We see that the changed heart bears fruit. Take some time and read Galatians 5:22-26 and be active in asking for God's help in growing good fruit in your life and in the life of our church. We are in this together!

*As a reminder, we've provided specific things to be praying for during the quarantine, Scripture to focus on and a song playlist for our edification and encouragement. You can find the list [here](#).

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to James 1:19-27 "Be a doer of God's word"
