

You Have a Heart Condition

Luke 8:4-21

How can two people hear the same gospel message and end up in vastly different places spiritually?

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, “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. And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. 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.” Luke 8:4-8

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, “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.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, 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. 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. 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.” Luke 8:9-15

Why does Jesus teach in _____?

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. Luke 8:16

...he said, “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.’” Luke 8:10

And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” Isaiah 6:9-10

The condition of your heart _____

Parable – literally, to throw along side. A story used to make a point without explicitly stating that point. It is up to the listener to make the connection

Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away. Luke 8:18

We condition our hearts by _____!

“If the devil cannot make us bad, he will make us busy.” ~Corrie Ten Boom

And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.” Luke 8:20-21

Discussion Questions:

- Share how you typically hear God’s Words.
- What practices do you have that encourage you to hear and do God’s word more effectively?
- If you resist doing God’s Word, what are your typical reasons? How can you position yourself to be a doer of God’s Word?
- Share the last time you heard God’s Word and acted upon it. What did you learn about God’s character through that process?

Further study:

- Compare this parable with Matthew 13:1-23, and Mark 4:1-20. What additional insight or information do the other gospel writers give?
- Read James 1:19-27. How does James describe a person who hears the Word of God but doesn’t act upon them? What are the obstacles that James list for not acting on God’s Word?