

WHAT'S YOUR TIPPING POINT?

DAY 4 Read Luke 8:14 focusing on the Thorny Heart.

How would you describe this “thorny heart” and their response to the Word being sown? What specifically “crowds out” or “chokes out” the message of the word in this heart? How do each of these relate to you currently? How’s the struggle going? What’s keeping you from growing? Pray for focus.

DAY 5 Read Luke 8:15 focusing on the Good Heart.

Describe this person based on the words used by Jesus. What’s your personal plan to make sure God’s Word is getting on you, getting in you, coming out of you and making an impact around you? Where does “patience” fit into all this? Pray the prayer below....

“Dear Lord of the Harvest, why is it that so little of the seed that is sown in my heart ever reaches maturity, let alone fruition? Why is it that Your Word has such a hard time implanting itself in my life? Why do I wilt when my faith comes under heat? Why is it that week after week I’m hacking away at the same old weeds? Come into my garden, Lord. Take Your plow and furrow the hardness out of my life. Dig up the obstacles that keep the roots of my faith from growing deeper. Pull out the worldly preoccupations that tendril their thorns around my heart and squeeze out my spiritual life. Cultivate my heart, Lord, so I may catch every word that falls from heaven. Every syllable of encouragement; every sentence of rebuke. Every paragraph of instruction; every page of warning. Help me to catch these words as the soft, fertile soil catches seeds. Help me to watch over that heart with all diligence, realizing that the harvest of my heart not only helps to feed a generation now but to seed the harvests for generations to come.” Amen.

—Ken Gire, *Moments with the Savior*



Pastor Ken Goodban

Part 1

5.15.22

“Parable of the Sower & the Seed” Luke 8:4-15

“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.” Luke 9:23 NLT

“The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.”
— Malcolm Gladwell, *The Tipping Point*

Parables & the Tipping Point....

“One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: “A farmer went out to plant his seed...” Luke 8:4-8 NLT

“His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand.’ ” Luke 8:9-10 NLT

What’s the Condition of Your Heart?

1. The Hard Heart says, “No, God.”

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.” Luke 8:11-12 NLT

“So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” James 1:21 NLT

2. The Rocky Heart says, “Yes, Lord, Until...”

“The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.” Luke 8:13 NLT

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” Col.2:6-7 NLT

3. The Thorny Heart says, “Yes, Lord, But...”

“The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.” Luke 8:14 NLT

4. The Good Heart says, “Yes, Lord.”

“And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.” Luke 8:15 NLT

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.” Ezek.36:25-27 NLT

DAILY LIFE GROUP GUIDE _____ May 16-21, 2022

Use *this* guide this week to help you spend time with God every day. As you go through the daily devotional, reflect on His Word and pray specifically for God to guide your steps each day. Take one day at a time - Read, Reflect, and Record your answers. Spend time in prayer for God’s guidance. Share your thoughts & action steps with your LifeGroup. We are Better Together!

DAY 1 Read Luke 8:4-10 focusing on Jesus speaking in Parables.

Find a good definition of “Parable” and give yourself a working definition of what a Parable is. Why did Jesus use Parables according to vs.9-10? What’s the point for you? How is this connected with the Jesus’ statement, “*Anyone with ears to hear, should listen and understand?*” How would you rate your current level of hearing the Word and understanding it? What increases or decreases your level of hearing the Word? Pray for ears to hear.

DAY 2 Read Luke 8:11-12 focusing on the Hard Heart.

First, let’s be very clear on what the seed is - what does this say to you? What would this “footpath” be like for us today and what makes it hard? How would you describe this person and what happens with the Word? When did you fall into this category, or how about becoming hardened now? Pray for a soft heart before God that easily receives His Word to you.

DAY 3 Read Luke 8:13 focusing on the Rocky Heart.

How would you describe this person and their response to the Word? They start off so good – what happens? What’s the challenge about needing to be “rooted & grounded” from Col.2:6-7? How do you rate your level of “rockiness” in your faith verses being well-rooted and grounded? Pray for continual growth and depth in your relationship with God. →