

## Luke 8 pt 1 vs. 01-15

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, <sup>2</sup> and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

<sup>4</sup> And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: <sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> 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!"

<sup>9</sup> Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"

<sup>10</sup> 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

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

<sup>11</sup> "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.

1. Chapter 7 spoke to us about the gospel and we looked at faith, hope and love
2. Chapter 8 is highlighting what faith is
  - a. But just before he does, Dr. Luke wants to pinpoint something very important in the life of Jesus

- b. Not just that He went around doing well and healing people
- c. The Holy Spirit wants to zoom in on those who helped the Lord

### 3. **Certain women were supporting Jesus from their substance**

- a. This helps us understand a few things

#### 1. **Jesus elevates women who were not highly regarded in that society**

- 1. Not by Romans, Greeks, Jews
- 2. Not even by Jesus' followers; John 4:27
- 3. This was a male dominated world
- 4. Whatever the man of the house said was law
- 5. Power to sell his children as slaves and enact capital punishment
- 6. Women were not included in the census figures
- 7. This insertion by Luke elevates woman into a valuable status

#### 2. **Woman from noble families and women of lower status are now in fellowship and unison**

- 1. Nothing brings people who are so different together like the gospel

#### 3. **Nothing they did for the Lord went unnoticed**

- 1. They supported the ministry of Jesus financially
- 2. Jesus didn't need it

3. But He allowed those who had been touched, forgiven, and healed by Him to partner with Him in ministry
4. This is the key to giving to the Lord
5. If you feel like you have to do it, don't do it
6. **2 Corinthians 9:7** Give as you purpose in your heart; For God loves a cheerful giver
7. Anything big or small we do for the Lord is recognized by Him

#### 4. **Jesus is a storyteller**

- a. In this story, His heart is to teach that **true faith:**
  1. brings freedom
  2. bears fruit
- b. So He begins talking about what genuine faith looks like
- c. One-third of all of Jesus' recorded teachings is in story (parable) form
- d. Greek parable means to cast alongside
- e. To come alongside a truth that is unfamiliar and cast a familiar example / story

#### 5. **Parables are designed to conceal and reveal**

- a. To reveal to those who want to see
  - b. Conceal from those who don't want to see
6. Jesus could have used persuasive words and a display of power but He doesn't want to overpower anyone
- a. He doesn't want any conversions by force as we all have choice

- b. Teaching by parables then gives people a choice to accept or reject
  - c. He respects our choice to decide
7. This passage should be called *the **parable of the soils***
- a. The emphasis is **not** on the sower or *seed*, but on the kinds of *soil*
  - b. **Sower** = Son of man – JESUS (or his servants)
    - 1. Preaching the gospel
  - c. **Seed** = Word of God
    - 1. Seed is powerful – It is what changes us
    - 2. **1 Pet 1:23** having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever
  - d. **Soil** = 4 different types of hearers
    - 1. The condition of the heart
    - 2. **How we hear...**
  - e. **Franklin Roosevelt**, who often endured long receiving lines at the White House complained that no one really paid any attention to what was said. One day, during a reception, he decided to try an experiment. To each person who passed down the line and shook his hand, he murmured, "I murdered my grandmother this morning." The guests responded with phrases like, "Marvelous! Keep up the good work. We are proud of you. God bless you, sir." It was not until the end of the line, while greeting the ambassador from Bolivia, that his words were actually heard who leaned over and whispered, "I'm sure she had it coming."
8. We choose which type of hearer we will be (**PP**)
- a. Wayside
  - b. Rocks
  - c. Thorns

- d. Good soil
9. The responsibility falls on our shoulders
10. As a loving Father, God wants everyone to know the truth and be saved
- a. He wants to teach people in a way they can **understand** and **accept** the truth
  - b. Understanding is **step #1** for transformation to happen
  - c. He wants all people to enjoy the forgiveness He already paid for
  - d. Jesus offered His hearers the opportunity to dig deep and find the truth
  - e. Things have a deeper meaning more when you search for them
11. The 12 don't understand
12. Jesus gives the explanation to those who requested
13. **Wayside; Does not understand; Birds of air come and steal / the seed is trampled underfoot**
- a. The message is not hard to understand
  - b. Children can understand the gospel
    - 1. That Christ came to save sinners, of whom I am chief
  - c. But there is no room for it
  - d. **Picture of a hardened heart**
  - e. Calloused heart (see v. 12): no penetration, conviction, or openness
  - f. Soil is so packed together there is no room for the seed to settle

- g. Maybe it's filled with religion
- h. A love for this world more than God
- i. The enemy immediately steals that seed

14. **Is there a solution for this group?**

- a. **Jeremiah 4:3** Break up your fallow ground...
- b. A hardened heart needs to be plowed through to break it up
- c. **The plow that breaks the packed soil is the truth:**
  - 1. Truth is that the devil cannot take what I don't offer him
  - 2. Truth is we hold on to what we choose to hold on to
- d. Stopping long enough to consider what is being said and think about it
- e. All of humanity is headed for eternity
- f. We need a savior

15. **Rock; Received the Word with Joy (Emotion)**

- a. Quick response to Christ
- b. The seed falls on a bedrock covered by a thin layer of soil
- c. Without enough soil, the plants cannot take in enough root to grow, and is burned by the sun
- d. When trouble hits, they fade away
- e. This is the person who welcomes the gospel without counting the cost.

- f. Perhaps he heard that following Jesus would magically solve all his problems and that Jesus offers an abundant life, so he emotionally responds
- g. At first, he seems to be walking with the Lord
- h. But then, trials hit. Because his Christian experience was based more on emotion than on truth, he has no deep roots into the Word.
- i. He falls away. It's not that he lost his salvation; it's that he never truly was saved in the first place
- j. **Spurgeon:** The religion that is born of mere excitement will die when the excitement is over."
- k. When tribulation comes as a result of the Word, they stumble
- l. People's true faith is revealed during difficult times
- m. Where I turn during trouble shows where my faith really stands
- n. Many have professed Christ with tears and walk away after tribulation or persecution
- o. I've witnessed people come and pray with emotion and walk away from faith
- p. Rock or stone always compete with Christ the Rock...
- q. **What are some rocks that hinder roots from growing**
  - 1. Self-reliance
  - 2. Idolatry
  - 3. Pride
- r. There is one ROCK, JESUS who is the anchor of my life

## 16. **Thorns; Choked out**

- a. Another quick response to Christ but lasts a little longer
- b. Crowded heart (see v. 14)
- c. Jesus identifies the thorns as “worries, riches, and pleasures of this life” (8:14).
- d. This is the person who wants the best of both worlds.
- e. He professes to believe in Jesus, but his heart is divided.
- f. He is still drawn after what this world has to offer.
- g. He may be rich or he may be poor.
- h. Jesus is not talking about the amount we possess, but about our focus.
- i. He is trying to serve two masters
- j. Never made a clean break with the world
- k. Split between two kingdoms
- l. Cares of this world choke the Word
- m. **Distracted life; busy life**
- n. This is what we are being sold all day via media
  - 1. Don't be content,
    - 1. Get a bigger home
    - 2. Trade in the car
    - 3. Buy the newest...
- o. Deceitfulness of riches



p. This type may last a bit longer, but gradually the thorns take over and choke out the seed

1. He doesn't produce any fruit

a. During his youth, the son of a successful business man heard the Word but became engrossed in the family business. He devoted himself & rose to be C.E.O, and later on in his life had to acknowledge that he had neglected heavenly things.

b. He was about to retire and he expressed his intention to be more diligent in spiritual matters. But ... The man died suddenly. He left behind a large bank account and a spiritually wasted life.

c. The thorns had choked the word and it was unfruitful

d. This is the preoccupied, worldly heart

e. You cannot serve God and riches

f. The worries and riches and pleasures of this life will choke the seed

g. **1 Timothy 6:9**, "Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, or a snare, and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction, for the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many a sorrow

2. **The common factor of these first three soils is that none of them bear fruit**

a. Some look promising for a while, but there was no fruit because they were never truly saved.

b. So we all must examine our own lives and ask, "Am I bearing fruit?"

c. Is my faith superficial or genuine?

**17. Good soil; understands, accepts, produces fruit**

- a. Out of the 4 different types of hearts described, only one type bore fruit
- b. If there's no root, there's no fruit
- c. If there's fruit, there are deep roots

**2. There is no soil that is good of itself**

- a. There are no good people
- b. So what is this good soil?

**3. This again has to do with preparation**

- a. We prepare for the most important things in life
  - 1. We prepare ourselves and our children with education for the future
  - 2. We prepare months in advance for weddings
  - 3. We prepare weeks in advance for the holidays
  - 4. We prepare for everything that is important to us
- 5. **How much more do we need to prepare for our eternal homes?**
- 6. Of course we cannot do all the preparation ourselves
- 7. As with large projects, we'll bring in the experts to help us
  - 1. The wedding planner
  - 2. The caterer
  - 3. The professionals to prepare and do it right
  - 4. But we need and make the call and invite them
- b. There is only One who knows how to remove stones and thorns and His name is Jesus

- c. He knows how to remove the stone and replace it with flesh
- d. This is how hard, packed & crowded soil becomes good
  - 1. By confessing that we're not good and realizing just how bad we really are and need God's grace

4. **How do we know if we have this good soil?**

5. **There is always evidence that the seed landed in good soil - Fruit**

- 6. We don't have any power to grow fruit; it's a natural process
- 7. The Word is powerful enough to bring forth fruit
- 8. Salvation is revealed by fruit, not foliage

9. **Various kinds of fruit**

- a. **Fruit of the spirit:** Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness
- b. **Praise:** Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name
- c. **Good works:** Col. 1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
- d. **Holiness:** Romans 6:22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life
- e. **Soul winning:** Romans 1:13 Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until

now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles

- f. **Financial giving:** Romans 15:28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

10. It's not our job to grow fruit, but to remain planted and leave the rest to God

- a. **John 15:4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me

11. The parable of the sower compels the listener to ask, "What kind of soil am I?"

12. How can I prepare my heart and mind to be the *right* kind of soil?"

13. It invites us to reflection and action

14. **My heart can be in any of these conditions at any given time**

15. Maintenance of the soil is critical at all times

16. What's the condition of my own heart?

- a. **Wayside** / Break up the fallow ground – REPENT and bring it to God
- b. **Rocks** / remove any foreign idols
- c. **Thorns** / begin trusting God and setting priority
- d. **Good soil** / Allow the word to settle deeper still