

08282022 As we continue our study of Luke...we will listen to Jesus in his own words... today he shares the way change in those who to walk with Him hange... **Jesus said it this first...**

*NLT Luke 8:8.... “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”*

Human ears hear many sounds, but there is a deeper kind of listening with the mind and heart that is necessary in order to gain spiritual understanding from God’s words. **This idea of listening means to hear with the intent to apply....**

Listening to Jesus involves many paradigm shifts on how to do life, handle circumstances, overcoming trials, and living by often times a different moral compass...

1. **A paradigm is a way of thinking about reality...it is the world view, the filter through which we interpret the data, and the experiences in life which leads to the way we do life...**
2. **A paradigm shift is when we are able to break out of an old pattern of thinking into something new, which leads into a new way of life in that particular subject.**
3. **Sometimes paradigm shifts are called an “aha” moment when some truth comes into focus that was previously not seen or at best was blurred. This insight begins to change the way we think about something, which leads to a different way of approaching it.**
4. **When you follow Jesus you are in for a whole lot of paradigm shifts**

**As we will see today Jesus explains in parable form the value of receiving/listening to his word and the hindrances which cause one to reject it and miss out on what God wants to produce in and through his followers...**

- 1. Change does not start with doing something new, it starts with believing something new**
- 2. Our lives change in proportion to the connection between our beliefs and our actions.**
- 3. Christianity is not just mental assent, unless it is lived out in your humanity it is not worth anything**

**Jesus explains this process to his disciples by the example of the four ways his word is received in the heart of people...and the blessing it is to those who receive it fully...the process he uses is called a parable.**

**A parable is a story with a double meaning...one is plain and the other concealed... A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time...**

**For faith is developed by the search for understanding of something we don't understand!**

Let's pick up the narrative..

*NLT Luke 8:4 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:*

*Luke 12:5 "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. <sup>6</sup> Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on*

fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> 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.’

<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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.

**The following analogies are in the parable:**

1. **The Farmer** stands for Jesus. 2. **The seed** is the words of Jesus.
  2. **The heart** is where the seed is planted
- **Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people’s hearts are present...And the seed is sown to all...**
  - **Also Anyone can be any soil at Different times or phases in a person’s life....**
  - **How we willingly apply God’s message/seed to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others. We receive a paradigm shift ...of reject that paradigm to keep our own...**

Last week **1) “Foot Path” people**, the seed falls on them but is not received.. his teaching and methods do not fit into their preconceived ideas and beliefs, so they reject it. **Their heart is afraid of the unknown so they are hardened against receiving something new...so they never learn how to grow something different they keep walking on their well worn hard but unproductive path.**

**They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and so it easily picked away ...We are never acting more satanically than when we hold on to our word and reject God’s word .**

**2) The rocky heart**, <sup>13</sup> *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.*

- **Whereas the footpath soil ..finds no place to be received, the rocky soil receives it into the heart with great joy!**
- **Their hearts receptive but shallow. They have a thin covering of soil over rocks...**
- **They follow as long as they are happy...the honeymoon followers... but ready to break up when temptation comes...**
- **When the good times of Joy are over and their roots hit a rock of temptation...the hard destructive place in them joy vanishes...that is where the root stops... **the word shrivels** and the temptation wins... **Like a firework...shine bright for a short while...as long as their on fire!!** Emotionally driven...when it comes time for hard core commitment they give in to temptation to quit**
- **The antidote... one’s faith must develop a good deep broad root system**
- **Faith must find a way around the rock to reach deeper nourishing soil**

Notice we are not told if the rock is removed or not...so the roots have to grow around it and deeper beyond it! Not just hope it is removed..

### 3) “Thorny soil”

*Luke 12:14* 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.

- This heart is receptive also ...but it has been receptive to many other plants also and nourishes and cares for all of them ...
- not even realizing they are invasive plants...sucking up nutrients, time, and attention but producing nothing of value... while choking the juvenile plants of Gods word...it barely survives and does not reach maturity.
- \*\*\*Spiritual maturity is directly tied to emotional maturity...
- The problem is focus... they are the spiritual ADD gardeners ...their attention get easily drawn away from the words of God and get consumed with the care and feeding of the worries of life plants..and the finances plants and pleasures of this worlds plants
- These plants can be so invasive in our hearts and we give them so much time... that the word of God does not get strongly **rooted**

1. The first one... Cares or Worries of life plants produce the fruit of fear ... **choking out our hope and security in God** ..sucking the life out of our contentment and peace... Our hope withers..

- These are the symptoms of A preoccupation with the worries of life plants...
- We are worn us out emotionally... we say things like.. I am so stressed...I just want to sleep...I am so tired ...I have no energy to do anything...I have no patience...I am so busy... I am burned

out... I am so anxious, I am depressed ...where is God? Does he not see what is happening?

- Faith can become smaller than a mustard seed! God's word plants are so small and these worry plants are huge
- We have no strength left to stand fast, to take thoughts captive...to pray, to serve, to love...
- Result...We remain immature never growing out of a child's maturity level...where everything is the biggest thing...

The antidote.... is to discipline our selves to stay focused on God's words...applying it to our minds...thereby starving out those other worries.. they are there but keep them immature

*Luke 12: 25 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 26 And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?*

- **Only God's word is true forever in all situations**

2 .Then he says beware the the Riches plant...My finances plants..these plants never seem to have enough soil in the heart

No matter how many are planted ...we need to plant more...

- Riches plants look beautiful...but have deadly flowers...they create the illusion of safety and security if we just have enough of those plants!!!
- We will be insulated from many of the harsh realities of life. If I have enough outwardly I will be secure!
- The problem is it is temporary relief... illness, disease, economic change, war...old age...prove its insulating power has limits...
- This type of weed chokes out the Word by placing one's confidence and trust in their possessions rather than God
- **Only God's word is true forever in all situations**

*Luke 12:30* These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. <sup>31</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

### **3) The Pleasures of this life plants...if I just have enough of those my life will be great!!.. It is human nature to desire to maximize pleasure and minimize pain.**

**The follower of Jesus is not denied pleasures. The phrase "pleasures " does not indicate that the Jesus follower is to have no pleasure ... It is not sin for the Christian to enjoy life.**

- **The problem is when our Desires for pleasure and the corresponding chasing after them...as a way to handle life causes us to live and make decisions focused on the present, and many of those decisions actually cause greater pain in the future...short term gain in exchange for long term pain...**
- **For these plants temporary sacrifice for long term gain is quite the foreign concept... they are small picture people...**

*Gen 25:29* One day when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau arrived home from the wilderness exhausted and hungry. <sup>30</sup> Esau said to Jacob, "I'm starved! Give me some of that red stew!" (This is how Esau got his other name, Edom, which means "red.") <sup>31</sup> "All right," Jacob replied, "but trade me your rights as the firstborn son." <sup>32</sup> "Look, I'm dying of starvation!" said Esau. "What good is my birthright to me now?"

<sup>33</sup> But Jacob said, "First you must swear that your birthright is mine." So Esau swore an oath, thereby selling all his rights as the firstborn to his brother, Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and lentil stew. Esau ate the meal, then got up and left. He showed contempt for his rights as the firstborn.

**Antidote Wisdom...**

*Psalm 90:12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.*

- **Spending out lives chasing after that which is absolutely temporary in life...not realizing all of life is short no one is promised tomorrow...make good descisions today !!**
- **what we chase after with our time is important.....nourish the plants that produce fruit that will outlive you ! That is Wisdom!!**

**4\*\*\*\*Finally we come to the good soil, the responsive heart, the open heart**

*Luke 8: 15 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.*

**The good soil ... is not merely soil of sufficient quality and depth to receive the seed...but is committed to the seed to grow it.. into maturity where it produces a harvest....**the soil now works with the seed to mature the plant so that it produces life...fruit and drops more seed. A Harvest

**The moral of the story: the problem is not the seed but the soil! Be the right soil**

- **For a plant to produce it has to sprout out of the soil ...it must mature...and mature plants attract others to them as they are full of fruit...**

**You are here to impact this world for good...Listen the world does not read the Bible, they read Christians...they eat the fruit that been produced out of your heart into your life!**

- **Because what come out of us is what is really inside of us ...**



- **these times like all times will change...but his word is peace and life throughout all times and all time...**
- **It reveals and exposes our heart...and mind... what is being exposed?**

**end**

- **For example, you may be open to God about your future ...but closed to his word concerning how you prioritize spending your money.**
- **You may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship ...but respond like thorny soil to his demand to not worry...be content**
- **Good soil produces in varying degrees...which can and must be seen...it is the indicator of good soil...a crop is produced...**
- **Notice that the amount of seeds is not the indicator of how good the soil is... one seed has the capacity to produce..in good soil**
- **For a plant to produce it has to sprout out of the soil ...it must mature...and mature plants attract others to them as they are full of fruit...**
- **one seed has the capacity to produce..Someone who possess a little seed of knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much**

**more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge**

**Use the toothpaste example...if I call myself toothpaste container...then when I am squeezed Toothpaste should come out! If I call myself a Christian when I am squeezed...Christian stuff should come out of me...**

**Because what come out of us is what is really inside of us ... these times like all times will change...but is his word is peace and life throughout all times and all time... It reveals and exposes our heart...and mind... what is being exposed?**

**end**

**.....Spirituality means nothing unless it is lived out in your humanity... for that is what the people who don't know God will eat...\*\*\***

**how you act in your humanity tells all which parts of God's word you believe and which parts you don't!**

*end*

Some people in the crowd were looking for evidence to use against Jesus; others truly wanted to learn and grow. Jesus' words were for the honest seekers, those wanting to listen to what Jesus was saying...

*Luke 8: 15 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.*

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- **Prior to receiving the seed...it is soil used for many different plants or just barren but now**
  1. **Now path people are not necessarily that way all the time...even followers of Jesus can have times of being path...hard hearted...**
  2. **They Hear but do not take it into their heart... and it is easily stolen from them**
  3. **The road or path soil shows that Satan is a great danger to those who hear indifferently...And often causes them to oppose the Kingdom...religious leaders, Herod Pilate**

Who and what you listen to...

Leads to what you think about

Think about it long enough...

You will do it...

Do it long enough it

It becomes a habit

Do a habit long enough it becomes a stronghold...

Something that holds you strongly...in your mind...

*2CO 10: 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.*

from the Jesus perspective

Paul says it this way...

*1CO 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.*

**1. That statement is called a paradigm...a paradigm is a way of seeing and thinking about reality...it is the lens, the filter through which we interpret the data and information of our lives...**

*Luke 12:12 Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.*

2. verse 12 is called A paradigm shift....a paradigm shift is when we are able to break out of an old pattern of seeing and thinking into something new.
3. Paul said ...When he was a child his parents were responsible for his growth and teaching him how to view life.... but now that he is a man...he is responsible for his views and actions
4. This usually happens when the foundation of how we feel, think of see something is shaken by a whole new way of looking at life. Sometimes simply called an “aha” when some truth comes into focus that was previously not seen...or a best was blurred...
- Paul says Now it is his responsibility to learn and grow...a paradigm shift..
  - When you follow Jesus you are in for whole lot of paradigm shifts...As we will see today Jesus states a spiritual paradigm... and that is this...
  - that the receiving (believing) of the words of Jesus by an individual can be measured by the response of that individual to life’s circumstances...in other words inner beliefs will match exterior actions...

**\*\*\*Spiritual maturity is directly tied to emotional maturity... \*\*\*Our lives change in proportion to the connection between our beliefs and our actions..... theology and psychology are connected...where God meets humanity...what you truly believe will be manifest in your responses to your circumstances...**

**Change does not start with doing something new...it starts with believing something new...Spirituality means nothing unless it is lived out in your humanity...\*\*\*Our lives change in proportion to the connection between our beliefs and our actions..... theology and**

**psychology are connected...where God meets humanity...what you truly believe will be manifest in your responses to your circumstances...**

▼ **Proverbs 30:30** The sayings of Agur son of Jakeh contain this message.<sup>1</sup> I am weary, O God; I am weary and worn out, O God.<sup>2</sup> I am too stupid to be human, and I lack common sense.<sup>3</sup> I have not mastered human wisdom, nor do I know the Holy One.

▼ **Notice...the Sower Scatters seed on the soil ...**

- **Seed was planted by hand. As the farmer walked across the field, he threw handfuls of seed onto the ground from a large bag slung across his shoulders.**
- **The plants did not always grow in neat rows as they do with today's machine planting. ...No matter how skillful, no farmer could keep some of his seed from falling on the footpath, from being scattered among rocks and thorns, or from being carried off by the wind. ....But enough would fall on good ground to ensure the harvest.**
- Choice of attention...to pay attention to this and ignore that is vitally important...who are you listening too?
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- Choice of attention... what you pay attention too...will control you. Simple as that...to pay attention to this and ignore that is what sets the direction of our lives...
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- Jesus said...

- *JN 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup> Then you will **know the truth**, and the truth will set you free."*
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- *JN 8:33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"*
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