

Sermon Discussion

13 March 2022

Read Luke 8:4-15

Dig Deeper

Luke's account of Jesus' parables by the sea is the shortest of the three, and Matthew's is the longest. Luke limited himself to recording only two parables, namely, the parable of the soils and the parable of the lamp. He thereby stressed the importance of **hearing, obeying, and proclaiming** the Word of God.

The main focus of this parable in all the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) is not on the **sower** (Jesus and His disciples) or the **seed** (the Word of God), as important as these are. It is the **soils** on which the seed falls.

In v. 13-14, both of these cases show there was some initial faith in Jesus and later a turning away from Him in unbelief. Notice that Jesus did not mention if they were saved or lost. That was not His point. The point is **how they responded** to the word of God. Some of them may have been saved and others lost. Jesus did not say they lost their salvation. That is impossible (see *Romans 8:31-39*). He said they turned away in unbelief.

The difference between the fourth, fruit-bearing soil and the others is that the person holds to the gospel with an honest and good heart (v. 15). This **does not mean** true disciples experience moral perfection or freedom from sin's effects; it means that the gospel profoundly affects the hearts of those who truly receive it.

1. Three out of the four soils was not producing for the farmer. He was experiencing only a 25% success rate. How do you stay encouraged when people do not respond to you sharing the gospel?
2. Why are believers called to scatter seed everywhere and not just where it is the easiest?
3. In v. 15, we see that producing requires patient persevering. In what ways does discouragement keep the gospel from taking root in people's lives?
4. When we sow the seed of the gospel, to what extent should we try to be persuasive and to what extent should we fall back on the sovereignty of God?
5. During the sermon, it was said three things the word of God needs if it's going to take hold in our lives, and put down roots, and bear fruit were Time, Space, and Focus. What thoughts emerge after hearing that? What challenge is that to you?

Application & Prayer

- What do you think the connection is between being shaped by our social media/newsfeeds and our focus on everyday life and perspectives?
- Remember each week of our Lenten series, there will be a weekly fast to consider. Fasting is a way of helping us pay attention. It removes some of the clutter and distractions of our lives so we can focus on important things; things we might have overlooked or ignored.

This week, instead of focusing on what other people are up to on social media, we focus on what God is up to in the world around us. Instead of focusing on what our newsfeed is telling us, we're going to focus on what God is telling us, in His Word, the Scripture.

What type of fasting or creating space might we consider pursuing this week in order that we might focus more on Scripture? Examples include Facebook, Instagram, daily news report, etc.

- Let's meditate a moment longer on Luke 8:15 – *“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.”*