

Luke 8:5, 11-12 Hindrances to Hearing: Resistance and Indifference

Fruitful hearing of God's word is hindered by willful resistance, mindless indifference and the devil.

(The first three soils are those who do not receive the Word fruitfully, and thus are not saved. The primary application is to those who have not believed the gospel and persevered in faith. The principles will still apply to believers because we must continue to fight against the flesh and put sin to death, including the sin of neglecting God's Word.)

- 1) Remove willful resistance to Jesus and His Word.
 - a) Despising the simplicity of Jesus and His Word (Luke 4:22-23; 22:63-65; 23:11)
 - i) Temptation: Intellectual Pride/Academic Hubris
 - ii) Don't check your brain at the door, but challenge your presuppositions.
 - b) Skeptical about Jesus' divine authority (Luke 5:21)
 - i) Temptation: "Too good to be true"; or "It's too easy"
 - ii) Fact: It's impossible for men. But all things are possible with God. Luke 18:26-27
 - c) Threatened by Jesus' authority (Luke 6:1-11; 14:1-6; 20:1-8, 13-18)
 - i) Temptation: Autonomy
 - ii) Autonomy is an illusion (Rom. 6, 7).
- 2) Remove mindless indifference to Jesus and His Word.
 - a) Contented ignorance of God's Word (Luke 8:18)
 - i) Temptation: Superficial knowledge of the Bible as "principles for living"
 - ii) Ignorance of God's Word is ignorance of God.
 - b) Careless attitude toward divine things (Luke 19:44)
 - i) Temptation: Relevance is determined by my desires and environment
 - ii) "Christianity is either relevant all the time or useless anytime. It is not just a phase of life; it is life itself."
- 3) Resist the devil by eagerly receiving the Word.
 - a) Devil's murder of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4)
 - b) Devil's attack on believers (Eph. 6:10-13)
 - c) The devil is "the deceiver of the whole world" (Rev. 12:9; cf. John 8:44)
 - d) Overcome the devil: Listen to the truth (1 John 4:5-6)