



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Sermon Notes

“Do You Have Ears to Hear”

Luke 8:8b-15

May 13, 2012

As He said these things, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when His disciples asked Him what this parable meant, He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 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.

I. Introduction — a message for mature audiences

II. A Review of Verses 11-15

A. Three deficient groups

B. One productive group

C. Remaining questions

III. Parables and Their Meaning

A. Parables in the Old Testament

B. The nature of a parable

C. The erroneous moralization of parables

IV. The True Meaning and Use of Parables

A. Their real meaning is concealed to many

B. Their real meaning is revealed to others

C. Parables teach the believers and blind the unbelievers

VI. Application

Look at many Christians; I call them Christians for they call themselves so. A boy in the streets, selling mince pies, kept crying, "Hot mince pies!" A person bought one of them, and found it quite cold. "Boy," said he, "why did you call these pies hot?" "That's the name they go by, sir," said the boy. So there are plenty of people that are called Christians, but they are not Christians—that's the name they go by; but all the substance is drained out of them by other matters. You see the shape of a Christian, the make of a Christian, and some of the talk of a Christian; but the fruit of a Christian is not there. That is the result of the choking by the thorns of care, riches, pleasure, and worldliness in general.

C.H. Sprugeon (1834-1892)
Parables of Christ