

# What will you do with the Word?

## Part 2

**E.T.S.:** Jesus shares the parable of the sower/parable of the seed/parable of the soil to show the importance of the Word.

**E.S.S.:** The message examines how we should receive, relate, and respond to the Word.

**Christ Follower:** Determine, with God's help, to do with God's Word what He intends you to do.

**Christ Seeker:** Accept that God's Word is truth that you need to accept so that you can be saved.

## Introduction

We led into asking this question, as we started examining Luke 8:4-21: What will you do with the Word?

In Luke 8:4-15, from the parable of the sower / the parable of the seed / the parable of the soils, we are exhorted to reflect on how we received the Word. Remember, the parts of the parable are identified:

- The sower, in the direct context, is Jesus Christ; however, by extension, anyone who sows the seed is a sower.
- The seed is the Word of God.
- The soils are those who have the privilege and responsibility of coming under the sound of God's Word.

Jesus's focus in this parable is not the sower, nor the seed; His focus is the soils. His focus causes us to reflect on how we receive the Word. Four types of soil are described:

- Some hear, but never believe (vv. 5 & 12).

## **Application**

Are you someone who has heard the Word, perhaps over and over again, and never believed?

## **Introduction**

- Others hear and receive, but fall away because of temptations (vv. 6 & 13).

## **Application**

When experiencing temptations to sin or trials of faith, are you prone to move away from or move closer to God?

## **Introduction**

- Others hear, and are overcome, not by temptations or trials, but by distractions (vv. 7 &

14).

## Application

Is your focus so much in the world that the efficacy of the Word is being choked out?

## Introduction

- Others truly hear the Word (vv. 8 & 15).

## Application

Those who truly hear the Word demonstrate:

- *Sincerity*: coming to the Word with an honest and good heart; coming hungry and thirsty to receive what I need from God.
- *Exposure*: putting myself in the place where I will hear the Word.
- *Obedience*: I hold fast to the Word; with carefulness and determination I do not let go of what I have heard and received.
- *Faithfulness*: how faithful am I in sowing, watering, and preparing to reap?

## Introduction

So, this brings us to the remainder of the passage where Jesus teaches a second parable that builds on the first and applies the theme of the parable in a real-life situation.

Follow along as I read Luke 8:16-21.

## Bible

*(16) No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.*

*(17) For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. (18) Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have. (19) Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. (20) And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. (21) And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.*

*Luke 8:16-21 - KJV*

## Introduction

From verses 4-15, we were encouraged to reflect on how we receive the Word. Let's continue now to:

## 2...Reflect on how I reveal the Word (vv. 16-18)

## Explanation

How I reveal the Word builds on how I receive the Word.

What is God's Word? I suppose there are a large number of ways that we can answer that question. However, the way I have in mind is to answer that God's Word is truth.

Jesus's teaching, in this section of the passage, could be concisely summarized: if you receive the truth, then you should reveal the truth.

## **Illustration**

My son, Michael, has, at times, enjoyed shutting the light off in a room and leave whoever is in the room in darkness. It's, in a sense, a cruel joke.

## **Application**

What about us, who have received light, when we cover up the light and leave others to continue in darkness?

## **Explanation**

Jesus demonstrates the foolishness of that. It's not sensible to light a candle and then hide the light of the candle from others.

How should we shine our light?

Step back, as this parable builds off of the first.

In direct context, Jesus is the sower spreading God's Word. However, His followers are with

Him. They are listening to and learning from Him. Later, He will command them to carry on spreading His story everywhere.

Think about this. They were good soil. They truly heard the Word.

What did that produce?

Fruit.

Fruit has seeds which, in turn, naturally can produce more fruit.

## **Application**

If you receive the Word of God as He intends you to, then, naturally, reproduction takes place.

In this way, you become the sower spreading the seed (God's Word).

## **Explanation**

Interestingly, Jesus describes a normal occurrence in the Middle Eastern agricultural history. For us, plowing the field is often the first step. However, the sower in Jesus's day regularly sowed the seed and then plowed the ground to mix the seed into the soil.

## **Application**

Here's what that means for you and me: Stop examining the soil and just spread the seed.

## **3...Reflect on how I respond to the Word**

# **(vv. 19-21).**

## **Explanation**

This, to me, is a fascinating section of the Scripture. I have to think that little must have bothered Jesus more than the rejection of His earthly family. We learn in the Scripture that, before His resurrection, His brethren didn't believe in Him, instead viewing Him as out of His mind (see Mark 3:20-21 & John 7:1-5).

One of those was James. You talk about a skeptic. I do not know how much younger he was than Jesus. Regardless, he did not believe. He must have examined Jesus's life carefully, and found no lack. Still, he did not believe. Then, he watched Jesus die. Then, he saw his brother raised to life and he believed. He was so changed that he called himself a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ (see James 1:1). Later, as recorded by some of the earliest church historians, James suffered martyrdom for his faith and bold witness that Jesus is Savior. Though it wasn't immediate, this was his response.

Yet, at the time of this event, James and the others did not believe Him. When they came calling on this occasion, Jesus made a profound statement: those who hear the Word and do it are those who are His family. In other words, closeness and intimacy with Christ is about response to His Word.

## **Application**

How do you regularly respond to the Word?

# Conclusion

**Christ Follower:** Determine, with God's help, to do with God's Word what He intends you to do.

**Christ Seeker:** Accept that God's Word is truth that you need to accept so that you can be saved.