

## *A Great Mentor/Teacher*

- Imagine being accepted by great mentor/teacher in an area that means a lot to you → Oh the joy!
- What does it look like to be a good student of that mentor/teacher?
- What would you say to someone who has a great mentor/teacher but doesn't do these things?
- Pray: Ask God to do His work in our hearts now

## **Ears that Hear**

**Luke 8:4-15**



*Psalm 1:  
The Big Idea*

True prosperity and joy  
come through reshaping  
our head, heart, and hands  
by God's revelation (the Bible)  
which is the way of life

**OH, THE JOY! GOD HAS GIVEN US HIS WORD OF LIFE!  
SO WHAT KIND OF LEARNERS ARE WE?**

*Luke 8:1-15*

- 1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners
- 4: • Diverse: men & women, wealthy & troubled
- 5-8a: • “Proclaimed and announced the Good News”
- 8b:
- 9:
- 10:
- 11-15:

***Luke 8:1-15***

1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners

4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly

5-8a:

8b:

9:

10:

11-15:

***Luke 8:1-15***

1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners

4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly

5-8a: Parable: good seeds have variable effectiveness based on soil conditions

8b: • Note: failure gets later each time, yet they still fail

9:

10:

11-15:

***Luke 8:1-15***

1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners

4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly

5-8a: Parable: good seeds have variable effectiveness based on soil conditions

8b: Jesus' command: Listen well!

9: • "Hear" is used 5 more times in His explanation

10: • "To hear" is a gift and **a command**

11-15:

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4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly

5-8a: Parable: good seeds have variable effectiveness based on soil conditions

8b: Jesus' command: Listen well!

9: Disciples ask for help to understand

10: • Past and present: disciples ask & pursue change

11-15:

***Luke 8:1-15***

- 1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners
- 4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly
- 5-8a: Parable: good seeds have variable effectiveness based on soil conditions
- 8b: Jesus' command: Listen well!
- 9: Disciples ask for help to understand
- 10: Disciples get help from Jesus, by God's design
- 11-15: • Essence of God's ways are only learned from God  
• God's Word is only "productive" in some hearers

***Luke 8:1-15***

- 1-3: Jesus traveled and taught. Many hearers & learners
- 4: Large crowds heard Jesus' words gladly
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**GOOD RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD IS  
THE ESSENTIAL MEANS  
OF SALVATION AND MATURITY**

- 11-15: Lesson: God's Word has variable effectiveness based on qualities of the hearers of His Word

### *The Big Idea*

God's Word brings about  
growing and fruitful Christians  
when it is received by eager learners  
in head, heart, and hands

### *Application*

Sometimes God's Word doesn't make a difference in our lives because...

– We don't actually care enough

**hard ground**

→ "Knowing more of the Bible doesn't really matter. Keeping my job, paying my bills, passing my class, living good enough does."

→ Being transformed by the Word of God is **ESSENTIAL** to the Christian life. Everything flows from it.

→ Ask God and people for help to break up the soil of our hearts

### *Application*

Sometimes God's Word doesn't make a difference in our lives because...

- We don't actually care enough **hard ground**
- We give up obeying because it is "too hard" **shallow soil**

→ "Life and following God should be easier than this.  
Why work so hard? Why keep going?"

→ "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come... That is why we labor and strive" *1 Timothy 4:8-9*

→ Persevere, asking God and people to help

### *Application*

Sometimes God's Word doesn't make a difference in our lives because...

- We don't actually care enough **hard ground**
- We give up obeying because it is "too hard" **shallow soil**
- We chase after other things instead **weeds**

→ "I can't change. Other things are good. Does it really matter?"

→ Distractions choke the Word so there is no maturing and fruit

→ Put away the other things, asking God and people to help

→ Obvious sins, like sexual sin, hate, deception, ...

→ Subtler sins, like greed, pride, materialism, ...

→ 'Innocent' distractions, like productivity, news, games, entertainment, ...

### *Application*

Sometimes God's Word doesn't make a difference in our lives because...

- We don't actually care enough
- We give up obeying because it is "too hard"
- We chase after other things instead

**hard ground**

**shallow soil**

**weeds**

Sow righteousness for yourselves,  
reap the fruit of unfailing love,  
and break up your unplowed ground;  
for it is time to seek the Lord,  
until he comes  
and showers his righteousness  
on you.

*Hosea 10:12*



### *The Big Idea*

God's Word brings about  
growing and fruitful Christians  
when it is received by eager learners  
in head, heart, and hands

**RECEIVE AND OBEY THE BIBLE LIKE IT IS ESSENTIAL  
FOR THE HEALTH OF YOUR SOUL  
BECAUSE IT IS**

Jesus said, "The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

- Disciples are the people who...
  - Keep coming back to Jesus
  - Asking for His help...
    - to understand
    - to believe and to know Him
    - to put into practice what He says