

# When Good Seed meets Good Soil

Luke 8:1-15

## The power of words

Sometimes words seem very powerful. Examples?

Sometimes words seem rather powerless. Examples?

What is the difference?

What about God's Word?

We pray for His Word to be powerful in our hearts and in our church today

## Encounters with Jesus in Luke 7

Centurion's faith: "I have not found such great faith even in Israel."

His servant was healed → Powerful!

Crowd when Jesus raised the widow's only son:

"A great prophet has appeared among us." → Not clear...

John the Baptist's struggling question: "Are you the one?"

Jesus: "Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." → We are not told...

Pharisees and experts of God's law

rejected God's purpose for themselves → No effect...

Sinful woman who washed Jesus' feet:

"Your faith has saved you; go in peace." → Powerful!

Simon who watched this woman's transformation:

he loved Jesus little → No effect...

Why was Jesus' word sometimes so powerful, and sometimes it seemed to have no effect?

## Luke 8:1-15

### 1-3: The Twelve (men) and many women are with Jesus

In that day:

Not unusual for women to have control of money and to give it to a teacher

What was radical (even scandalous): for women to be among the disciples

being disciples → learning from Jesus with Jesus

traveling in an unrelated mixed group

Women: emphasis on transformation & generosity

Mary & Joanna also mentioned at the cross

Joanna had social and financial power

They are presented as ideal disciples

The only pattern: all kinds of people joined Jesus

### 4-8: Jesus teaches the large crowd a parable: seeds in soil

Perhaps Jesus and the disciples had invited people to this event (town after town)

Jesus decides to teach the large crowd through a 'narrative analogy' that must be 'unwrapped'

Common experience: scatter seed, then plow it in

Path: land animals and birds prevent any growth

Rock: lack moisture, so it withers

Thorns: choked, so fruit doesn't mature

Good soil: abundantly fruitful

Jesus' command: learn from this story!

### 9-10: Disciples ask for help. Jesus: not everyone gets answers

A combination of the Twelve and women

like Mary listening at Jesus' feet

They take Jesus' command seriously → Ask for help

This is Jesus' answer (not an aside)

Only some benefit from Jesus' teaching ('secrets')  
Power and blessing of God's Word  
Knowledge and experience of the Kingdom of God  
Yet for some, it is just a story  
This variable benefit is by God's design → a puzzle

### 11-15: Fruit from God's seed only comes in 'good soil'

What happens when people encounter God's Word?

Path: the devil works to stop the Word of God

Rock: "time of testing" stops people

Thorns: "life" gets in the way

Good soil: they hear, retain, and persevere

Not path ➡ hold on to the Word (hold tight!)

Not rock ➡ hold fast in trouble, don't let go

Not thorns ➡ stay focused on it in life

Generate good and abundant fruit!

### The Big Idea

**The blessing of encountering Jesus  
comes to those who  
hear and hold tightly His Word  
and persevere in following Him  
with courage and faith**

### Application

#### Be convinced: God works through His Word

"The seed is the word of God" Luke 8:11

The Seed=The work of God communicated and enacted in our hearts through the Word of God by the Spirit of God

Psalm 1:1-3

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

Where do you want the presence and fruitfulness of God in your life?

The seed that brings fruit is the Word of God

Nothing else is promised to bring this good

God can use other things

Only the Bible with faith is guaranteed

#### Hear, hold tightly, persevere with courage and faith

Head

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve [do] what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

Using all our abilities to understand:

Read, watch (The Chosen: [studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen](https://studios.vidangel.com/the-chosen)), listen ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)), see, imagine, go, do, ...

Memorize & meditate & communicate & write & draw & act & move & sing & ...

<https://app.crosswaymchurch.org/Memory/>

Together

Life Groups, family & friends, ...

Heart

Open our hearts to hear the Spirit speak

Especially: hearing what I don't want to hear

Hebrews 4:12-13; 1 Corinthians 14:24-25; John 4:29

Hands

Jesus said: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." John 14:21

“But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.” Luke 6:49

### Serotiiny: Cones of the Jack Pine Tree

Seeds that are only released by a fire

Resin seals the seeds

The resin needs high heat to melt

Some then need one or more wet-dry cycles to release the seeds

In the same way, some of God’s seeds are fruitful only over time and after trials

It is critical to persevere!

Yet the devil, and difficulties, and the distractions of life often stop the process

### What about God’s promise?

Isaiah 55:10-11

God has the power to speak and bring things into being without any human response

We do not

God’s words are not a magic incantation:

→ a series of sounds that makes miracles happen

His Word is guaranteed to be fruitful

when planted in a human heart that has faith:  
hear, retain, and persevere

What are you going to do today, tomorrow, this week to hear ♦ to hold on tight ♦ to persevere?

Memorize a verse...or a book

Sign up to get a daily text for a chapter of the Bible

517-917-0498

Join with someone else to help each other put into practice what God reveals in His Word

Engage more deeply with head, heart, and hands

Believing that God’s Word is powerful in hearts that hear, hold fast, and persevere

### Reflection Questions

1. How would you describe your own beliefs about the power of God’s Word?
2. What makes it challenging for you to fully engage with God’s Word?
3. What are ways that help you more fully engage with God’s Word?
4. What is a step you will take to hear, hold fast, and persevere, together with others, in God’s Word?

