

## Listen Up!

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Luke 8:4-21

#### Discussion Questions

1. If you were a plant, what would you be? Why?
2. The word 'parable' means 'to come alongside.' A parable is a familiar story intended to reveal a spiritual truth that comes alongside it. In Luke 8:4-15, Jesus told the Parable of the Sower. It speaks of how the different soils (conditions of the heart) respond when the seed (word of God) is planted (heard).
  - a. *Hardened Heart* (v. 5, 12). What happens to the word of God when it is planted in this heart condition? Why do you think some people have become hardened toward the word of God?
  - b. *Superficial Heart* (v. 6, 13). How does this heart condition initially respond when the word of God is heard? Why couldn't this kind of response stay faithful?
  - c. *Distracted Heart* (v. 7, 14). What do the thorns represent? Which 'thorns' has choked your growth as a Christian recently?
  - d. *Receptive Heart* (v. 8, 15). How does the seed scattered on good soil turnout? What are some ways that can help improve your receptivity to the word of God?
3. To what area of your life does this parable speak? Which soil do you think represents you? When you hear the word of God, it is either you bear fruit or not. Whether you do or you don't will have major implications on how you will proceed in our spiritual progress .
4. *When truth is applied, more truth is supplied. But when truth is without use, it is bound to lose* (v. 16-18). Jesus tells the parable of the lamp. Just as light must shine and be seen to be useful, so does the word of God must be made evident and put into good use, otherwise, they become useless. Therefore, Jesus warns that when we hear the word of God, we

choose, either we use it or lose it. Spiritual truths put into practice makes spiritual progress. No practice, no progress. How good a listener do you think you are, in the sense of this passage? When have you tried to hide your Christian identity? How can you be more intentional in putting God's word into good use in your life?

5. *When the word of God is actively applied, your relationship with God cannot be denied* (v. 19-21). Every serious and committed believer in Jesus desires to have an intimate relationship with Him. Who did Jesus consider to be the people closest to Him? Hearing God's word and putting it into good use leads us into a right and growing relationship with Jesus. Doing what we hear is a strong representation of how much we value the relationship. How does it feel when someone you know acts as if your relationship is unimportant? When have you heard God's word but failed to put it into practice? In what areas do you need to put God's word into practice more diligently?

### Walk

James 1:22 says be doers of the word and not hearers only. Hearing the word of God elicits a response. It is not a passive act nor is it an end in itself. Because hearing comes with responsibility. Whenever we hear God's word, our response, based on the condition of our heart, is crucial because it will determine our fruitfulness. Cultivate your heart as good soils seeking to bear fruit. Put God's word into practice to make spiritual progress and actively grow your relationship with Jesus.

### Worship & Prayer

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, thank You for the transforming work of Your unchanging word! We pray that as Your word continues to be planted in our hearts, help us O God to guard ourselves from being 'hard', 'rocky', or 'thorny' as we seek to bear fruit. We ask strength from above as we endeavor to put your word into good use into our lives for us to make spiritual progress and to keep a growing relationship with you. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.