

MASTERCLASS #6 Responses to Truth

Word

Scripture Reference

Luke 8:4-15

Discussion Questions

1. How do you personally respond to a life-changing truth, especially when that truth is from the Word of God?
2. Knowing how to respond to truth is an important life lesson, especially to a follower of Jesus. Read Luke 8:4-15. This passage tells us of the Parable of the Sower, where we see a sower dropping seeds on the ground. These seeds fell on four types of soil and brought in different results (v. 4-8). Discuss these types of soil and the different results produced based on where the seeds fell on.
3. This parable on using farming as an example may not have resonated clearly to a community of fishermen. Even the disciples asked Jesus what's the parable meant (v. 9). Jesus responded that those who really wanted to understand the truth would take time to comprehend and learn, while others who did not were just there for the show (v. 10). Do you enjoy coming to church? Share how you understand and are being helped by the things being shared or taught in the church. Discuss the reasons that could cause a regular church attender not to grow spiritually. How does attitude and mindset make a difference in someone's ability to understand and learn?
4. Jesus explained that the parable illustrates the various reactions of people when they receive the truth. Jesus started by saying that the seed is the Word of God (v. 11). The Sower in the parable is Jesus. It could also represent the disciples, or even you when

you sow the seed of the gospel and the truth of the Word of God to others. The different types of ground represent the four different types of reception to the truth of God's Word.

- a. **Response #1: Rejection of Truth (v. 12).** What happened to those seeds by the wayside? God's truth has the power to save, but what causes people to reject the truth about God? How does Satan use the world's system to draw as many people with him down to the Lake of Fire? Should blame be placed on Satan if someone rejects God? How does personal choice make a person responsible for his action to either reject or accept God's truth?
- b. **Response #2: Acceptance of truth until challenges arise (v. 13).** The seeds that fell on the rocky ground did not grow very well; they withered and died. This represents people who accept the truth of God with joy, but because they did not dig deeper and did not have the water of nourishment and maturity to nurture the truth to grow, they are not able to establish a deep root. Hence, when challenges arise, they fall away. How does being deeply rooted in the Word of God strengthen your faith and equip you to be ready for life's challenges? Discuss the importance of knowing how to explain your faith and stand up for what you believe. What are some basic questions about your faith that even children and young people should be able to answer?
- c. **Response #3: Acceptance of truth until worldly distractions take our hearts (v. 14).** The seeds that fell among the thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasure hence, they do not mature. Discuss the pursuits of life that pull away a parent, a working professional, or a student from maturing in the Lord and bearing fruits. How do you keep yourself from making excuses (e.g. pursuing "fun things," being too busy, etc.) that might get in the way of your spiritual growth? What are the right priorities you should value?

- d. **Response #4: Acceptance of truth and then faithfully living it out (v. 15).** The seeds that fell among the good soil represent those with a noble and good heart who hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Having a noble heart means you have good character. Maturing in the Word of God is not an overnight thing, but it is a process of learning. How does a person with a noble heart take the truth? How do you live out your faith?

Walk

There are different responses to the truth. There are those who hear and reject it. Others take the truth until challenges come along. There are also those who receive the truth but don't prioritize it. Finally, there are those who accept the truth and faithfully live it out. What kind of soil do you most look like right now? Would you name a person with whom you can share the truth about Jesus, that your faith may bear fruit?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that the seed of Your Word was planted in my heart. I understand that receiving it with joy doesn't guarantee that I would be faithful. There are many distractions in life that the enemy could use to pull me down so that I will not grow and mature in my faith. But thank You, that with Your help, my heart could be a good soil, and that with patience, I can grow and mature by living out my faith. Help me to know my priorities and to be productive by having the desire to scatter the seeds of Your Word to people around me. In Jesus' name. Amen.