

HOW TO HEAR GOD'S VOICE

40 Days in the Word – Part Four

September 28, 2014

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Luke 8:4–15 (NLT)

⁴ One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: ⁵ “A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “**Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.**”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets* of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled:

‘When they look, they won’t really see.

When they hear, they won’t understand.’

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. ¹² The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. ¹³ The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

WHAT CAUSES US TO BE HARD OF HEARING

1. Hearing without **INGESTING**.

“The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.” (Luke 8:12, NLT)

3 Causes

- **PRIDE**
- **FEAR**
- **BITTERNESS**

“So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say...” (Ezekiel 33:31, NLT)

2. Hearing without **INVESTING**.

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow, but soon withered and died for lack of moisture.” (Luke 8:6, The Living Bible)

“The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.” (Luke 8:13, NLT)

3. Hearing without **TESTING**.

“The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.” (Luke 8:14, NLT)

3 types of weeds

- **WORRY**
- **WEALTH**
- **WANTS**

4 STEPS TO CLEARING MY HEARING

1. CULTIVATE **AN OPEN HEART**.

“My father taught me, “Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live.” (Proverbs 4:4, NLT)

“...humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.” (James 1:21, NLT)

2. IRRIGATE **REGULARLY**.

“When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart’s delight...” (Jeremiah 15:16, NLT)

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” (Joshua 1:8, NLT)

“Place these words on your hearts. Get them deep inside you...” (Deuteronomy 11:18, The Message)

3. ELIMINATE THE **COMPETITION**.

“Blessed are those whose lives have integrity, those who follow the teachings of the LORD.” (Psalm 119:1, GW)

“With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let’s make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let’s make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1, The Message)

4. COOPERATE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

“Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” (Luke 8:8a, NLT)

“And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.” (Luke 8:15, NLT)

“Jesus replied, “My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God’s word and obey it.”” (Luke 8:21, NLT)

Next steps

Old Testament Overview TODAY!

Super C.L.A.S.S. Sunday 10/5

New Testament Overview 10/19

Baptism 10/12