

HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

Once Upon a Time: Part Six

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ON TV SCREEN

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.

The Farmer is GOD.

The seed is the WORD.

The soil is my HEART.

HOW TO HEAR GOD SPEAK

1. CULTIVATE A LISTENING HEART.

some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it (5)

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. (12)

THE HARDENED PATH: CALLOUSED FAITH.

3 CAUSES

- PRIDE
*"The wicked are too proud to seek God. They seem to think that God is dead."
(Psalm 10:4, NLT)*
- FEAR
"The Lord sent this message to Jonah...But Jonah was afraid to go and ran away from the Lord..." (Jonah 1:1–3, The Living Bible)
- BITTERNESS
"...Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives." (Hebrews 12:15, The Living Bible)

"So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls." (James 1:21, NLT)

2. ALLOCATE TIME TO LISTEN.

Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture (6)

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 (13)

THE SHALLOW SOIL: CASUAL FAITH.

"Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10a, NLT)

3. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS.

Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants (7)

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 (14)

THE SOIL WITH WEEDS: CARELESS FAITH.

3 Types of Weeds

- Relationships
- Work
- Media

“...I want you to do whatever will help you serve the Lord best, with as few distractions as possible.” (1 Corinthians 7:35, NLT)

4. COOPERATE WITH WHATEVER GOD SAYS.

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!”

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

THE GOOD SOIL: COOPERATIVE FAITH.

3 Habits of Abundant Harvesters

- Honorable
- Humble
- Faithful

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don’t forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.” (James 1:22–25, NLT)

ACTION STEP:
CLASS 201