

Luke 8 Pt 1

Jesus Heart

I. Parable of the Soils

1 Now it came to pass, afterward...

- **After:** Servant healed/Boy raised/John doubts/Woman forgiven
- **Ready heart.** Desire to change. Received New Life

Luke 7:50 Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

- **Afterward...**Jesus is on the move

...[Jesus] went through every city and village, **preaching and bringing the glad tidings** of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him 2 and certain women who **had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities**—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who **provided for Him from their substance.**

- **Currently w/Jesus:** 12 Apostles AND group of women Jesus delivered/healed

1. **Mary Magdalene** 7 Demons: Fully possessed
2. **Janna** Wife of King Herod's servant
3. **Susanna** All following Jesus **along with...**

Many other women who helped finance Jesus ministry from their own pocket

Jesus now Preaching Good News of the Kingdom of God city to city...

4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, **He spoke by a parable...**

- Jesus begins a new method of preaching using parables... **Why?**
- **Religious leaders went too far** [Mark 3/Mat 12]
 1. **Accuse Jesus** of being possessed by the devil
 2. **Accuse Jesus** of using power of Satan...to cast out Satan

Mark 3:23 [C'mere] He **called** [Religious Leaders] **to Himself** and said to them **in parables:** "How can Satan cast out Satan? [Not too smart? Illogical. House divided will fall?]

- **Stern warning to Accusers:** Danger of **unpardonable sin...**
 1. **Attributing** Work of God to Satan demonstrated by...
 2. **Rejecting** Holy Spirit's revelation of who Jesus is, i.e. **Savior**

The Unpardonable Sin: To die rejecting Jesus as Messiah

IOW's Those who refuse Him as Savior do not have a Savior because there is only one Savior...thus not forgiven

Matthew 13:34 [After Jesus warned them He...] spoke to the **multitude in parables**; and without a parable He did not speak to them

Parable: A simple relatable story placed alongside a deep spiritual truth to better illustrate that truth

- **Benefits of Parables:** Thins out the crowd leaving those who want to hear truth
 1. **Those who want to hear will hear** Attracted by parables
 2. **Those who don't want to hear will walk** Annoyed/Offended by them

He begins to speak in Parables...Separate Wheat/Chaff

Matthew 10:34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."

Threshing Floor of Soul Separation

Q. Why parables? **A.** Separate Believers from Make-believers as seen in first parable

- **Parable of the Soils** [AKA Sower]

5 "A **sower** went out to sow his **seed**. And as he sowed, some fell by the **wayside**; and it was **trampled down**, and the **birds of the air** devoured it. 6 Some fell on **rock**; and as soon as it **sprang up**, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns **sprang up** with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on **good ground**, **sprang up**, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things **He cried**, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" 9 Then His disciples asked Jesus, saying, "**What does this parable mean?**" 10 And [Jesus] said, "**To you it has been given** to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God**, but **to the rest it is given in parables** that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

- **Purpose of Jesus parables**
 1. **Reveal truth** to the **Humble** Reveal Mysteries of Kingdom of God
 2. **Conceal truth** from the **Proud** Conceal Mysteries of Kingdom of God

That seeing they may not see...and hearing they may not understand
But to those who truly want to know...

Mysteries of Kingdom of God are revealed to disciples/learners: The reign of God dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ, the purpose of which is the redemption of His people from sin and from demonic powers, and the final establishment of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

- **Parable of Soils Interpretation**

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Key to Unlock this and following Parables: Seed is the Word of God

- **Seed** **Word of God**
- **Sower** **Jesus using the church...**

Colossians 1:28 [Jesus] we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect in Christ Jesus.**

- **Soil** **Hearts of Men**
- **Birds** **Enemies of God** **Devil/Demons**

Readiness of soil to receive Seed...**compared/placed alongside the...**
Readiness of the Heart to receive the Word of God

- **1 Seed** **Word**
- **1 Sower** **Jesus**
- **4 Soils** **4 Heart Conditions** w/regard to hearing Word

1. Hard
2. Superficial
3. Consumed
4. Ready Heart

Heart One The Hard Heart

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the **devil comes** and **takes away the word** out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

- **Wayside [Highway]:** Word to a **hard heart**. Asphalt. Run over. Eaten by birds
- **Hear Word:** No Germination/No Growth/No Salvation
- **Every seed** that follows springs up. This one **trampled down/ate up**

Mark 3:15 ... Satan comes **immediately/takes away the word...**

- Heart is hard thus Seed left exposed
- Satan instantly **blinds heart/mind** of those that are his...

2 Corinthians 4:3 ... if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose **minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe**, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

- **Hard Heart** Continued rejection leading to unbelief. Callous/Hard heart
- **Dilemma** If you...you're not listening/God will eventually solidify your position

Pharaoh hardened his heart so many times God finally obliged him solidifying his unbelief forever. God will do the same to those who continually deny/reject the Word of God. [NJC]

2 Thessalonians 2:11... God will send strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**, 12 that they all may be condemned who **did not believe the truth** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

- **Hope for a hard heart?** Yes, if you still hear...still care.

Hard hearts must be plowed up before they can receive the Seed...this can be a painful experience [Wiersbe]

- **Tragedy/loss:** Loved one, Job, Status, Health. All of the above?
- Most hard hearts will dig in/**Do so to their own peril...**

[Atheist Christopher Hitchens] In the last year of his life, Hitchens wrote some searching essays about his cancer/impending death. He seemed to stand **ever resolute in his atheism**/to insist that the hour of his demise must be the *proving ground of his unbelief*.

Description of Hard-Hearted One who continues deny/reject the Word. To them it is noise. These don't come to church. They are self-deceived categorized within religious traditionalists, worldly-wise, arrogant, proud, self-made, scientific community, *successful* businesspeople, Hollywood. Yet, the pride/self-deception that sustains them in this life will melt at the White Throne Judgment

Prayer for Hard-Hearted: Most Difficult soil to penetrate must be mixed with/enriched by much faith-filled prayer; plowed by increasingly more devastating wake-up calls. Pray for their misery and their false-foundations to crumble that they would fall on their face in fear of the Living God. That God would **grant them repentance** [2 Tim 2] and remove the satanic blindness now darkening their hearts/minds

- **Heart One** Hard Heart
 1. Asphalt. Does not sprout at all. Run over. Eaten by birds
 2. No Germination/No Growth/No Salvation.
 3. **Good News:** God can change a heart...may take more than a little pain

Heart Two The Superficial Heart

13 But the **ones on the rock** are those who, when they hear, **receive the word with joy**; and these have no root, who **believe for a while** and in **time of temptation** fall away.

- **Rocky Soil:** Word to **Superficial Heart**.

Seed sprouts/Finds no place to take root/withers for lack of moisture to **keep it growing** Even as the Word finds no Repentance but only Superficiality which cannot **keep it going**

Mark 4:16 ... they hear the word, **immediately receive** it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when **tribulation or persecution** [time of temptation] arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

- **Hear Word/Sprouts Up Quickly** Excited to receive Word. Moved by emotion
- **Experience Benefits of Spirit** Peace, Deliverance, Joy, Power

1. Found a Family! Great people! Great support group!
2. Pastors funny/People affirming. Worship Rocks. Makes me feel good for now...

Mark 6:20 [Herod knew John] was a just and holy man, and [Herod] protected [John]. And when [Herod] heard [John], he did many things, and **heard him gladly.**

- Received Word of God gladly from John...then Herod cut John's head off **when it got tough**
- **Why?** Rooted in the faith of John. **Not grounded in his own faith...**

Some professing Christians have no root in themselves. Their root is in their parents, or in their Christian friends, or in the pastor, or in enthusiastic surroundings. They...must be sustained by enthusiastic surroundings. They seem to have been baptized in boiling water; and unless the temperature around them is kept up to that point, they wither away ... ***the religion that is born of mere excitement will die when the excitement is over.***" [Spurgeon]

The Superficial Heart has no need of repentance because they did not receive the Word in order to change but to the Christian experience to their sinful lives. That don't work.

- **Received the Word with Joy:** Initial Water of the Word.
- Once Word causes issues/Shut off spout wither away/melt like snowflake

IOWs: Once the fun is over...Immediately take off

- **Q.** Can a person **Taste the goodness of the Lord and not be saved**

Hebrews 6:4 ...it is impossible for those who were once **enlightened**, and have **tasted** the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and **have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come**, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame. 7 For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; 8 **but if it bears thorns and briers**, it is rejected [bad soil] and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.

- **This self-deceived person has ...**
 1. **Been Enlightened**
 2. **Partaken** of Holy Spirit
 3. **Tasted** Benefits of the Word of God
 4. **Experienced** Power of God...yet is not saved because never repented

Did not respond to the Word for personal Change/Growth/Salvation but for new experience
Wrong motives. No Repentance. No humility. No Salvation

The rain falls on the earth and the earth may bear **good fruit** for harvest or **thorns to burn**. The Word falls on its hearers who may bear good fruit proving Salvation or thorns revealing false conversion. These "*believe for a while* and in *time of temptation* fall away" proving their motivation was not genuine from the start. [NJC]

False Conversion: Worst thing that could ever happen. Unreachable
Why? Consider themselves saved because of the initial experience. **Yet...**

- **True-Believers** **Will continue** in the faith/Continue to bear good fruit
- **Make-believers** **Will resemble** believers for a while as chaff looks like wheat

2 Peter 2:21 [For this person] ... it would have been better for them *not to have known the way of righteousness*, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: **"A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."**

- **Stony Ground:** Word to Superficial Heart
- **Need for Self-Gratification**/Self-fulfillment/Self-Satisfaction/Self-Affirmation

...When that's gone their gone

All in: Eat my flesh and drink my blood. **Oh my!**

John 6:66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him **no more.**

- **After a short time the Superficial Heart looks for excuses to take off...**
 1. ... **something** to disagree with [doctrinal/carpet/pulpit]
 2. ... **someone** to blame [didn't say hewwo]
 3. ... **Find some other** church that in their mind can meet self-centered needs

Description of the Superficial Heart: [Rocky] Begin with joy in the Word/Happy to join a church yet **bypass humility/repentance of sin**. These are those looking to be healed, set free, get out of debt, have their family fixed but never acknowledge their own sin or personal need of a Savior. They sprout fast but wither because their motives were selfish to begin with. Anything or anyone at Church that does not meet their needs are a reason to leave. Some continue to church hop forever/Others return completely to their old lives. Shallow soil/Thin skinned [Unrepentant/Unsaved because they missed the main point, i.e. **their need for forgiveness**]

Prayer for the Superficial Heart: Pray that God would grant Godly repentance w/no regret. Remember that changing an unsaved superficial self-centered heart is the work of prayer/and the Holy Spirit.

SUMMARY:

- **Heart One** Hard Heart
 1. Asphalt. Does not sprout at all. Run over. Eaten by birds. Wants nothing to do w/Word
 2. No Germination/No Growth/No Salvation.
 3. **Good News:** God can change a heart...may take more than a little pain
- **Heart Two** Superficial Heart
 1. Hear Word/Sprouts Up Quickly Excited to receive Word
 2. Experience Benefits of Spirit Peace, Deliverance, Joy even power
 3. Believe for a time When trouble comes...fall away

Why? They were not rooted/grounded in the **full council of the Word of God**. Blindsided/Sideswiped when trouble came. Maybe someone did not tell them the whole story, i.e., we come to Jesus as sinners in desperate need of a Savior deserving of nothing but receiving overwhelming Grace/Mercy. That in this world you will have trouble but cheer up...Jesus has overcome the world and a new better one is coming for those who suffer and love for His Names sake while we wait. Just sayin' [NJC]

- **Next week:** Consumed Heart/Ready Heart