

1. Intro

- Last week, Ladd covered Jesus parable about a farmer sowing seed. The seed is the truth of God's Word.
 1. Some seed (God's Word) fell on a hardened path and birds came and ate it. That represents people who heard the truth but the devil came and took it away from their hearts and they never believed.
 2. Some seed fell on rocky soil. That represents people who hear the truth and receive it initially with joy, but then after a while they fall away when they face temptation.
 3. Some seed fell among thorns. That represents people who hear the truth but the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life crowd out the truth and they don't grow into Godly maturity.
 4. Some seed fell on good soil. That represents honest, good-hearted people who are hungry for and open to God's truth, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.
- Today, Jesus follows up on this truth and gives us another parable illustrating how to have Godly character and a life full of Godly fruit.
 - Today, Jesus teaches that the path to get there is to **look to the truth of His Word, believe it, and continually obey it.**

2. Text: Luke 8:16-21

Luke 8:16-18

- Jesus teaches using a parable of a **lamp** giving light to all who enter the house.
- **God's Word** is the lamp that sheds light into the darkness and reveals the **truth** about everything.
 - **Psalm 119:105** "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."
- Then, Jesus said that one day, **everyone** will know the truth. (8:17)
 - God's Word is the **absolute** truth.
 - John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**"
 - John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, **the truth**, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me."

- If we “listen to” (Greek = to have, hold) Jesus’ teaching, God will give more **understanding** of truth, but if we don’t listen, God will **take away** the understanding we thought we had.
 - **Matthew 22:36-39** - “**36** Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” **37** Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Luke 8:19-21

- Jesus is emphasizing the importance of hearing and **obeying** God’s Word over everyone else’s, even family.
 - And that ties in to what we’ve been talking about:
 - **look to truth in His Word, believe it, and keep obeying it.**

3. Application:

- It seems like a no brainer, display God’s truth brightly in our lives, obey it, and see God transform us into Godly, mature Christians who walk and talk like Jesus!
 - So, what holds us back? James says our]friendship with the world does!
 - **James 4:4-10**
- Is there something you need to “drop”, so you can instead “hold on” to God’s truth and obey it?
 - Listen to King David’s prayer of determination to cling to and obey the truths of God’s Word: Let’s make it our prayer!
 - **Psalm 119:105-112** “105 Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. 106 I’ve promised it once, and I’ll promise it again: I will obey your righteous regulations. 107 I have suffered much, O LORD; restore my life again as you promised. 108 LORD, accept my offering of praise, and teach me your regulations. 109 My life constantly hangs in the balance, but I will not stop obeying your instructions. 110 The wicked have set their traps for me, but I will not turn from your commandments. 111 Your laws are my treasure; they are my heart’s delight. 112 I am determined to keep your decrees to the very end.”