



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*  
**"How's the Soil of Your Heart"**

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## **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** Luke 8:1-22; Luke 24:9-10; Gal 3:28-29; Ezek 3:26-27; 12:1-2

When we walk with Yeshua through the Gospel of Luke, we're not taking an academic tour. This isn't about collecting information or affirming what we already know. The goal is transformation — to watch Him, listen to Him, and become like Him. Yeshua reveals what the Father is like, whether toward a centurion, a tax collector, or a prostitute weeping at His feet. He sees the unspoken thoughts of Simon the Pharisee and the wordless repentance of a broken woman — and He responds to both. He is Immanuel, God with us, and when we see Him, we see the Father.

This passage calls us to do more than hear a story. It calls us to pay close attention to *how* we hear. Yeshua isn't satisfied with us being casual hearers of His words. He's looking for disciples who receive, respond, and are transformed by the Word of God. That's why He warns, "*So pay attention how you listen. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he supposes he has will be taken away from him*" (Luke 8:18, TLV).

### **1. WHO WAS WITH YESHUA? WHO CONFLICTED WITH YESHUA?**

The people who opposed Yeshua were often those most convinced of their own rightness. They weren't cartoonish villains waving arrogance in the air; they were men who knew the Scriptures backward and forward, yet were unable to hear the Living Word standing right in front of them. They wanted a Messiah who fit their boxes and played by their rules, but when Yeshua spoke to the heart of God behind the details, they resisted Him. "He must not be a prophet," Simon thought, even as the Prophet of prophets read his thoughts and offered a rebuke meant to awaken his heart.

Meanwhile, those who walked with Yeshua looked very different: tax collectors, fishermen, zealots, women who had been healed and delivered, and the broken and overlooked. Miriam of Magdala, Joanna the wife of Herod's steward, Suzanna, and many others supported Him out of their own resources. These weren't society's elites; they were those who knew their need. And in Yeshua's upside-down Kingdom, they weren't second-class citizens — they were His family. As Paul later wrote, "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female—for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua*" (Gal. 3:28-29, TLV).

**Challenge:** Ask yourself: Who is drawn to you because you carry the presence of Yeshua? Do the broken find welcome, or do the self-assured feel most comfortable?

### **2. WHAT'S THE CONDITION OF OUR HEART'S SOIL?**

Yeshua tells the parable we often call "the Sower and the Seed," but really it's the parable of the soils. The seed is always the Word of God, and the Sower is faithful and unchanging. The question isn't about the quality of the seed but the readiness of the soil. Some hear the Word but their hearts are like hardened pathways — the seed bounces off and is snatched away. Others receive it with joy but lack depth, so when testing comes they wither. Still others let thorns of cares, riches, and pleasures choke the Word. But those who prepare their soil bear lasting fruit.

Every well-worn path was once a field, and every good field must continually be worked. Soil doesn't stay good on its own — it has to be plowed, cleared, and tended. Yeshua cries out, "*He who has ears to hear, let him hear*" (Luke 8:8, TLV). This prophetic call echoes through Ezekiel and Jeremiah, warning of rebellious hearts that have ears but won't listen. We are urged not to let familiarity or distraction make us unteachable, but to stay tender and hungry for His Word.

**Challenge:** What rocks, thorns, or hardened paths in your life need breaking up so the Word can go deeper? Ask the Spirit to till your heart today.

### 3. WHAT IS THE FRUIT OF OUR SOIL?

The proof of our hearing isn't in what we claim but in what shows. Yeshua compares it to lighting a lamp — no one hides it under a bed. In the same way, genuine hearing will reveal itself in transformed living. If the Word is truly received, it will be evident in fruit that others can see. If not, even what we think we have will be lost. Hearing without doing is no hearing at all.

When Yeshua's own mother and brothers came to see Him, He declared, "*My mother and My brothers are these who are hearing the word of God and doing it*" (Luke 8:21, TLV). This was not a rejection of His family but an invitation into His greater family — defined not by bloodlines but by obedience. True belonging in God's Kingdom is revealed in how we hear and how we respond. The fruit of good soil is both endurance and obedience, lived out as justice, mercy, and humility before God (Mic. 6:8).

**Challenge:** What does your life reveal about your hearing? Is the Word bearing fruit in justice, mercy, and humility — or is it hidden away under a bed?

### CONCLUSION

The parable of the soils is more than a simple farming story. It is a call to examine the soil of our hearts. Are we like Simon, certain of our rightness but missing the Word right in front of us? Or like Miriam and Joanna, broken or unexpected, yet receptive to His Word and included in His family? Yeshua is still calling: "*Pay attention to how you listen.*" The fruit of our hearing will not stay hidden — it will either show life and growth, or it will show neglect and barrenness. The invitation remains open: to become family with Yeshua by hearing and doing the Word of God. It's not about status or pedigree; it's about soil that is worked, softened, and receptive. It's about ears that hear and hearts that obey.

**Challenge:** This week, slow down and listen to God's Word with fresh ears. Don't assume you already know. Let Him search your soil and work it until it bears lasting fruit.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In Luke 8, who surprised you most by walking with Yeshua — and what does that say about the Kingdom?
2. How can we guard against becoming "familiar" hearers who assume we already know what God is saying?
3. What "rocks" or "thorns" are currently competing for space in your soil?
4. How do you know if your hearing is bearing fruit? What kind of fruit should we look for?
5. Yeshua said His family is those who "hear and do." What would change in your life if you lived fully as His family?

### CLOSING PRAYER:

*Avinu Malkenu, Our Father, Our King*, thank You for sending Your Word through Yeshua, the Living Word. Open our ears to truly hear and soften the soil of our hearts to receive all You want to plant in us. Break up the hard ground, pull up the thorns, and clear away the rocks that keep us shallow. Teach us to walk humbly, love mercy, and live in obedience to You. Let the fruit of our hearing bring light to those around us, so that when people encounter us, they encounter Yeshua. In His Name we pray, amen.