

# The Gospel According to LUKE

## Chapter 8

### “The Faith Factor” (A no spin zone!)

#### > FAITH FACT #1 – JESUS BRINGS GLAD TIDINGS! (v1-3)

(v1) **Isa 40:9-** *O Zion, You who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"* **Isa 52:70-** *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* **Isa 61:1-2-** *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD* (v2-3) **Men & Women harvesting with Jesus! Matt 9:37-38-** *"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

#### > FAITH FACT #2 – JESUS AND KINGDOM MYSTERIES! (v4-10)

(v10a) **“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God”-** A “mystery” in Scripture is a previously hidden **truth** now divinely revealed. There are approximately eleven “mysteries” found in the Scriptures: (1) **Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven-** In **Matthew 13:3-52** eight parables are given in regards to the interval between the first and second coming of Christ. (2) **Mystery of Israel’s Blindness-** **Rom 11:25-** *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.* (3) **Mystery of the Rapture of the Church-** **1Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-17.** (4) **Mystery of the Church, comprised of Jews & Gentiles-** **Eph. 3:1-12; Ro. 16:25; Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3.** (5) **Mystery of the Church as the Bride of Christ-** **Eph. 5:23-32.** (6) **Mystery of the in-living Christ-** **Gal 2:20: Col 1:26-27-** *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (7) **Mystery of God and of Christ-** **1Cor. 2:7; Col. 2:2,9.** (8) **Mystery of Godliness-** **1 Timothy 3:16.** (9) **Mystery of Lawlessness-** **2 Thess. 2:7** (10)- **Mystery of the Seven Stars-** **Rev. 1:20.** (11) **Mystery Babylon-** **Rev. 17:5,7.**

(v10b) **“but to the rest it is given in parables, that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.”** Jesus is quoting from **Isaiah 6:9-10.** Isaiah spoke this to Judah as God’s judgment was coming upon them. Babylon was coming to take them away into captivity. Just before this proclamation Isaiah had finished a series of curses upon the people because of their drunkenness, debauchery, immorality, dishonesty, injustice and hypocrisy.

#### > FAITH FACT #3 – JESUS SOWS THE WORD OF GOD! (v11-15)

What does the parable mean? The **Sower** is the **Witness**. The **Seed** is the **Word** of God. The **Soil** is the **Heart**.

(v12) **“seed on the wayside”-** This is the **hardened heart**. The wayside is the pathway between the cultivated sections of soil. People use the pathway to go through the fields and it becomes hard. The way of the world can make the heart hard toward God. Satan snatches away the seed of truth, grace and mercy; then packs the heart with pride, power & perversity. Every year without Christ makes salvation harder and harder to receive. These can only be saved by the jackhammer of God. (Prayer, Proclamation & Persistence!)

(v13) **“the rocky soil”-** This is the **shallow heart**. An emotional response without conviction. Rejoicing without true repentance. This heart is rootless and without water. Temptation/persecution arose and the shallow heart withered away. We cannot live on emotion; we must develop daily devotion and not “fall away!” This ground needs the roto-tiller of God’s Word, clear the rocks and put in the topsoil of God’s grace and water with the knowledge Christ, throw in some “Miracle Grow” for added measure.

(v14) **“the thorny soil”-** This is the **worldly heart**. Over time the love for God gets choked out with cares, riches and pleasures of this life and bring no fruit to maturity. **Gal 6:8-** *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

(v15) **“the good ground”-** **Fertile ground is found in a “noble (honest) and good heart.”** This person has a consecrated heart (they “keep” the Word of God). They also “bear fruit” with **patience** (*hupomone* (hoop-om-on-ay’); cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy). In **Matthew 13:23** Jesus said, **Matt 13:23-** *“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”* **What is bearing fruit? (1) Fruit to Holiness-** **Romans 6:22.** (2) **Fruit of the Spirit-** **Galatians 5:22, 23.** (3) **Fruit of Good Works-** **Colossians 1:9-12.** (4) **Fruit of Soul Winning-** **Romans 1:13.** (5) **Fruit of Financial Giving-** **Romans 15:25-28.** (6) **Fruit of Praise-** **Hebrews 13:15-16.**

#### **> FAITH FACT #4 – JESUS LIGHTS YOU UP! (v16-18)**

**(v16-17) This is the “Parable of the Lighted Lamp”**- Remember a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables become a mirror on which we see ourselves in the light of God’s Word. **John 3:17-21-** *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”* **Matt 5:14-16-** *You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***

**(v18) “more will be given”**- a heavenly inheritance, an incorruptible & immortal body. **“even what he seems to have will be taken away”**- Hell bound, outer darkness, eternal torment, wailing & gnashing of teeth. **Matt 13:41-43-** *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.*

#### **> FAITH FACT #5 – JESUS IS OUR LIFE! (v19-21)**

**(v19-21) Let’s dispel the myths about Mary, the mother of Jesus-** First, Jesus had half brothers, which means that Mary was not a perpetual virgin. Second, Jesus did not exalt her, nor did He or the Scriptures teach us to worship her or pray to her. She is blessed among women. Jesus defines who’s related to Him, *“these who hear the word of God and do it.”* **John 14:12-14-** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

#### **> FAITH FACT #6 – JESUS IS OUR GOD & SAVIOR! (v22-25)**

**Two questions: Where is your faith? Who can this be?** **John 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.* **Col 1:16-17-** *For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

#### **> FAITH FACT #7 – JESUS IS OUR DELIVERER! (v26-39)**

**Christians prepare for battle:** **Eph 6:10-18-** *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--*

#### **> FAITH FACT #8 – JESUS IS OUR HEALER! (v40-48)**

**Have you touched Jesus by faith?** **Rom 10:8-10-** *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Think about “doubting Thomas”) **Be a healer of souls through His power-** **Acts 1:8-** *But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

#### **> FAITH FACT #9 – JESUS IS OUR RESURRECTION! (v49-56)**

**Jesus gives us victory over death-** **John 11:25-27-** *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”*

## **The Fruitful Life!**

**#1- Fruit to holiness- Rom 6:22-23-** *But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.*

**#2- Fruit of the Spirit- Gal 5:22-23-** *But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

**#3- Fruit in Good Works- Col 1:9-13-** *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being **fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

**#4- Fruit of Soul-Winning- Rom 1:13-** *Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some **fruit** among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.*

**#5- Fruit of Financial Giving- Rom 15:25-29-** *But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this **fruit**, I shall go by way of you to Spain.*

**#6- Fruit of Praise- Heb 13:15-** *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name.*