

The Living
WORD



James 1:21

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.



Luke 8:1–8

Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.



Luke 8:1–8

⁴ And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵ “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



Outline

1. Proclamation of the Word (the sower)
2. Salvation through the Word (the seed)
3. Reception of the Word (the soils)



1. Proclamation of the Word

The Sower (Luke 8:1-8)



1. The Proclamation of the Word

Application: Lessons for Evangelism

- ❖ Spread the seed indiscriminately



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- ❖ Spread the seed indiscriminately
- ❖ Don't tamper with the seed



1. The Proclamation of the Word

Application: Lessons for Evangelism

- ❖ Spread the seed indiscriminately
- ❖ Don't tamper with the seed
- ❖ Measure success by faithfulness, not results



2. Salvation through the Word

The Seed (Luke 8:11-12)



Luke 8:11-12

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.



2. Salvation through the Word

Three Observations

- ❖ The seed is the word (v. 11)



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- ❖ The seed is the word (v. 11)
- ❖ The issue at stake is salvation (v. 12)



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Three Observations

- ❖ The seed is the word (v. 11)
- ❖ The issue at stake is salvation (v. 12)
- ❖ The seed (word / gospel) is weak, but powerful (cf. John 12:23-24)



John 12:23-24

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.



3. The Reception of the Word

The Soils (Luke 8:9-15)



Luke 8:9-15

And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.



Luke 8:9-15

¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.



3. The Reception of the Word

The Four Kinds of Soils/Hearers:

- ❖ The path: hard heart (vv. 5, 12)



3. The Reception of the Word

The Four Kinds of Soils/Hearers:

- ❖ The path: hard heart (vv. 5, 12)
- ❖ The rocks: shallow heart (vv. 6, 13)



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- ❖ The thorns: crowded heart (vv. 7, 14)



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The Four Kinds of Soils/Hearers:

- ❖ The path: hard heart (vv. 5, 12)
- ❖ The rocks: shallow heart (vv. 6, 13)
- ❖ The thorns: crowded heart (vv. 7, 14)
- ❖ The good soil: good & honest heart (vv. 8, 15)



3. The Reception of the Word

The Soils (Luke 8:9-15)



Final Application

- ❖ Need: The gospel must go deep in our hearts



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- ❖ Need: The gospel must go deep in our hearts
- ❖ Exhortation: Take care how you listen (v. 18)



Final Application

- ❖ Need: The gospel must go deep in our hearts
- ❖ Exhortation: Take care how you listen (v. 18)
- ❖ Grace: Remember that hearing itself is a gift (v. 10)



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