



## **"How Do You Respond To The Word?"**

### **Luke 8:1-15**

August 21, 2022

#### **August Meeting Schedule**

- Aug. 28 – Class
- Sept. 4 – No class – Labor Day
- Sept. 11 – EPCC not available
- Sept. 18 – Class
- Sept. 25 - Class

#### **Luke 8:1-15**

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  - 8 "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**1 Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him,**

**"soon afterwards"** – after the incident at the end of Luke 7.

- Jesus is on the move. He is led by the Spirit. He has a plan. Soon He will head to Jerusalem.

**"kingdom of God"** – Is there a difference between this term and the "kingdom of heaven?"

- No.

#### **Matt 19:23-26**

23 And Jesus said to His disciples, "Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the **kingdom of heaven**.

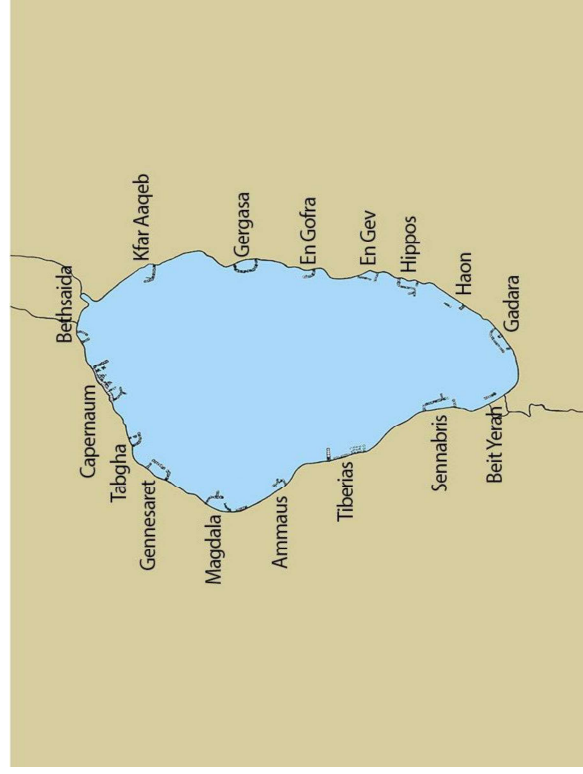
24 "Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the **kingdom of God.**"

25 When the disciples heard this, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be **saved**?"

#### **Col 1:13**

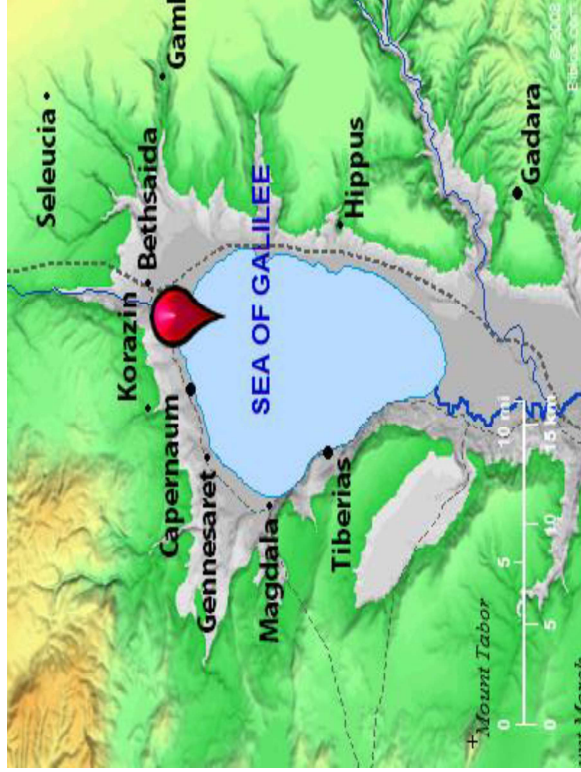
13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

- How are Jesus and the disciples supported?



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## 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,

- So not only are the 12 were with Him but also a group of women.
- **Note:** These women were the result of His ministry – Jesus healed some and cast out demons of others.
- **“evil spirits”** – πονηρος not κακος – evil - to do harm, to hurt, to injure, to do violence.
- It doesn't mean all of the women traveled with Him but that they did at different times.
- Notice Jesus does not forbid them to follow Him, which, forbidding them, would be the norm in that culture.
- **Here is the point:** If Jesus has changed your life, you owe Him your life, right?
- **Mary Magdalene** – Jesus cast 7 demons out of her. Her past life was a horror movie. She would have looked and acted like hell itself. Jesus delivered her, saved her, and set her free. She is faithful. Always there –

### Cross

#### Matt 27:55

55 Many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee while ministering to Him.

56 Among them was **Mary Magdalene**, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

### Burial

#### Luke 23:55-56

5 Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. 56 Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes.

### Resurrection

#### Luke 24:10

10 Now they were **Mary Magdalene** and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles.

#### Mark 16:1

16 When the Sabbath was over, **Mary Magdalene**, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

#### Mark 16:9

1 Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to **Mary Magdalene**, from whom He had cast out seven demons.

### Upper Room

#### Acts 1:14

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

## 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

- **Joanna** – wife of Chuza (koodza), Herod's financial manager.
- **“Herod”** - is Herod Antipas, the tetrarch (governor) of Galilee.



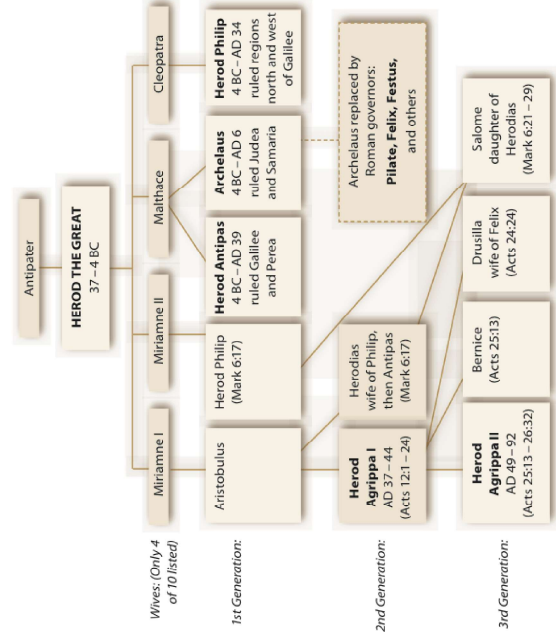
**3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.**

- **ἐπιτροπος** – one who manages the estate of another. Very high rank. Probably took all of his time.
- Herod probably asked Chuza from time to time, “How is Joanna doing?” . . .
- Joanna is at the other end of society. She has wealth. She has time. She was a part of the “rich and the famous.”
- She was saved from a life lived for the love of money and materialism.
- Her life was transformed just as much as Mary Magdalene.
- She is faithful to her Lord.

**Resurrection**

**Luke 24:10**

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**3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.**

- “Susanna” – we know nothing about her and that is why Luke chose her. Nondescript. Name never appears again in scripture.
- “many others” – those who came from all walks of life.
- What brought them all together was their love for the Lord Jesus who saved and forgave them of their sins.
- Jesus and the 12 needed financial support and help in order to carry on the ministry. Ministry costs money.
- They all contributed to the ministry of Jesus and the 12. They bought groceries, made meals, found places to stay overnight, made or purchased clothing, tended to physical needs.
- As we said in our introduction to Luke, Luke emphasizes the role of women more than any other gospel writer.

**Mary Magdalene**      **Joanna**      **Suzanna**

Down-and-outers      Up-and-outers      All of the unknowns

**Date of writing:** 56-61 A.D. (Matt. – 50 A.D., Mark 55-56 A.D.)

**Place of writing:** Rome, during Paul's imprisonment.

**Purpose:** To present Jesus Christ as the Son of Man.

**Key Verse: Luke 19:10**

10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jews rejected the Messiah (Jn. 1:11), so here in Luke it now goes to the Gentiles.

**Tone:** Warm and compassionate as we would expect an elderly family doctor to be.

**Emphasis:** The outcasts of society – the poor, tax-collectors, Gentiles, Samaritans, sinners (Luke uses the word "sinners" 16 times, more than Matthew - 5, Mark - 5, and John - 4), women (Elizabeth, Mary, Anna, Martha & Mary, Mary Magdalene, Bernice, Candace, Damaris, Dorcas, Drusilla, Joanna, Lydia, Priscilla, Sapphira, & Susanna), and children (the child hood of John & Jesus). Healing ministry of Jesus. Luke shows Christ to be the tender Savior of those whom society rejects or despises. More on the Holy Spirit than other gospels. Matt.'s genealogy goes back to Abraham, Luke's to Adam.

**Death:** Tradition tells us Luke died at age 84.

**The book of Luke continues to speak:** In 1979, the movie "JESUS", which is based on the gospel of Luke, premiered in 250 U.S. theaters. Since then, it has been translated to more than 1,700 languages and shown all over the world, leading to more than 572 million decisions for Christ!

- Women played a key role in the life of Christ. They were drawn to him because He treated them with dignity, with honor, with respect, and genuine love, kindness, care, and concern for their lives.
- They were not inferior, they were not sex objects, and they were not in any way to be treated unfairly or discriminated against.
- Women were faithful in following Christ.
- **Note:** There is no record of any women that is hostile to Jesus in the Gospel accounts.
- Wherever Christ went, He raised the status of women. He did not look down on them or consider them as some second rate person because of their gender.
- After all, where are the men? Where are they here in contributing to His ministry? Where are they at the crucifixion? Where are they at His burial? Where are they at the tomb after His resurrection?
- Recent survey: In evangelical churches and bible study groups, 61 % are made up of women.

• Because someone takes a subservient role does not make them less than equal.

### 1 Cor 11:3

3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and **God is the head of Christ.**

### Phil 2:5-7

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **bond-servant**,

• God has assigned specifically designed roles for both the man and the woman.

• In the first century, for a group of women to travel with a group of men was unheard of.

### Gal 3:28

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

### 1 Peter 3:7

7 You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a **fellow heir** of the grace of life,

- Once you understand the spiritual equality between men and women, you are then ready to discuss God's design for gender roles.
- Our society sees the belief in equality erases different roles between man and woman. This is where the Bible flies in the face of our society.

"In that last great day when the rewards are distributed, there will be as much for Joanna as for John, and as much for Mary Magdalene as for Simon Peter."

-Spurgeon

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- 4 **When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:**
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"In the final analysis, we do not honor women by treating them like men. We honor them by dealing with them as a special creation of God with a complementary, not a competitive role to play with regard to men."

#### 4 When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:

“large crowd . . . from various cities.” – they came from everywhere.

“parable” – a simple story or illustration used as a teaching device meant to reveal truth when explained. However if it is not explained, then it conceals truth from the hearer.

- In this case Jesus is going to conceal truth from Israel and reveal truth to those who were receptive to it.
- Why would He do that? Because Israel had rejected the truth for so long, they had crossed over the line. Jesus is saying, “You Jews don’t want to hear and know the truth - no problem. Here is a parable.”

#### 5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up."

- This is an agrarian society. Everyone can understand what this story is about.
- The setting is a Palestinian countryside with fields belonging to farmers who raised crops.
- The farmer (sower) straps a bag of seed onto his donkey.
- The sower has a small bag slung over his shoulder, hanging by his side from which he will grab a handful of seed and fling it over the ground.
- This parable is not about the sower and it is not about the seed. It is about the soil.



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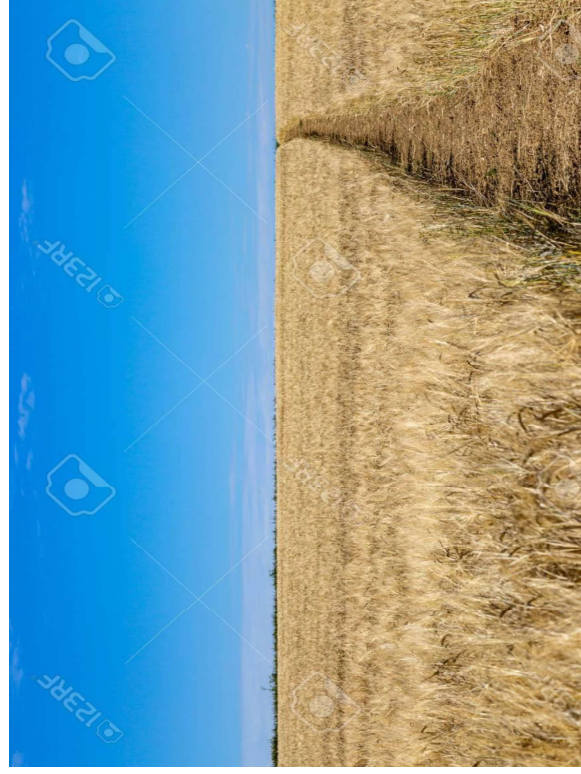
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**Soil # 1** – beside the road.

**3 problems with this soil:**

1. Hard ground – seed is unable to penetrate it.
2. Trampled under foot – no regard for the seed.
3. Birds get it – seed is removed from the soil.





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**6 "Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.**

**Soil #2** – rocky soil.

**3 Problems with rocky soil:**

1. Shallow.
2. No moisture to nourish the plant.
3. No roots.

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**7 "Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.**

**Soil #3** – among the thorns.

**3 major problems with this soil:**

1. Weeds block the sun.
2. Weeds, with an elaborate root system, take all of the water and nutrients.
3. Weeds choke or suffocate the seed.



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**Soil #4 – Good soil.**

**4 things makes it good soil.**

1. Not hard. It is plowable.
2. Has depth.
3. No weeds.
4. It produces a great crop.

**8 "Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."**

**" . . . let him hear" – had better listen.**

**9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.**

10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is 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 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

13 "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.



### 9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

- Disciples want to know what the meaning is.
- That is the proper view of God's Word – what does it mean?

**10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.**

"mysteries" - truth which was previously unknown but which now has been made known.

- Israel has rejected her Messiah.
- Jesus did everything to convince them – preached the gospel, healings, cast out demons, miracles.
- Now the truth will be concealed in the telling of parables.
- No sense "casting your pearls before swine."
- The disciples will get the meaning, Israel will not.

### 2 Thess 2:10-12

10 and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

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"The danger of exposure to revelation is that if we do not respond in faith, eventually hardness sets in and God acts to judge. Here is a warning about the ultimate perils of rejection: God may sovereignly involve Himself in cementing the process. These words are harsh, yet they serve as a warning of the extreme danger of rejecting Jesus' message."

- Darrell Bock

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

- 4 scriptures . . .

### Isa 55:11

11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire,

And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

### Heb 4:12

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### James 1:21

21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

### 1 Peter 1:23

23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

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

- Seed takes time to grow. So does the Word.
- When you share the gospel, you are planting the Word. Wait to see if there is growth.
- If you teach God's Word to believers, wait to see if there is growth.

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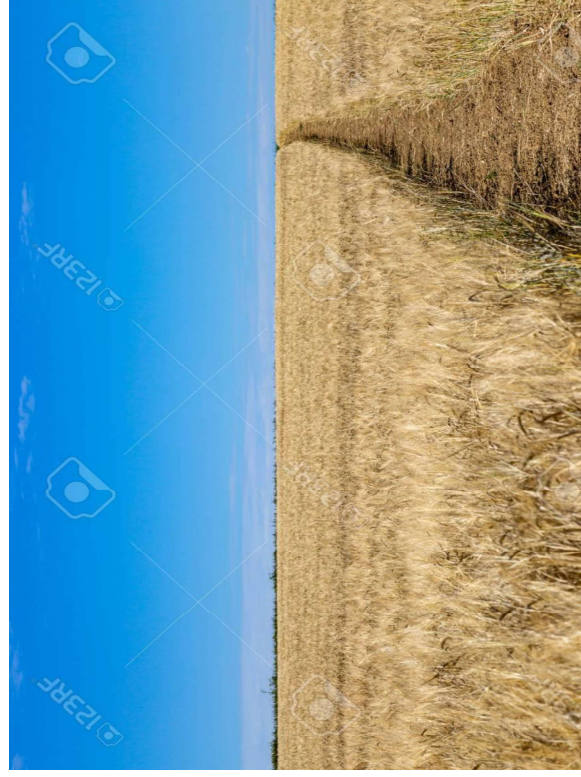
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12 **"Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.**

- Soils = hearts. The heart controls the intellect, emotions and will.

**Heart #1** – the hard heart.

Seed lands on the heart.

Zero penetration.

Satan convinces them through lies, to ignore it.

No response, so no change. Same condition as before.



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15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

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

**Heart #2** – the shallow heart.

Emotional response. All excited.

Lasts for awhile.

Poor root system – no depth. The sun is not the problem.

Promise but no lasting performance.

Superficial belief.

Spiritual life is shallow.

Can't stand, so they fall.

\*This is the person who is touched by the sermon on Sunday but forgets it by Monday!

**James 1:2-4**

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Heb 3:12**

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

"This trial is causing you to cave in and give up because your roots are too shallow to draw from the water of the Word. You're sporadic in your study. You're inconsistent in your worship. Your prayer is hit and miss. Tend to your root system and you'll overcome." We spend most of our time trying to figure out how to give people sunscreen for their noses when we should be dealing with the root systems of their hearts."

- Bruce Hurt

"These are the impulsive hearts. The seed falls upon them and they immediately respond with joy. The seed takes root and grows up quickly. The trouble is, they respond like this to everything -- food fads, new books, political leaders, whatever popular movement happens to be abroad at the time. As a result, their lives are so shallow that the seed of the life-giving Word cannot take deep root and change them. Consequently, the life which apparently is there withers away and dies. Jesus says that this kind of life is shallow; it cannot stand the heat. When persecution and tribulation come, immediately it is withered. They turn away and lose interest, and cannot abide."

- Ray Stedman

9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is 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 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

13 "Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 **"The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.**

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**14** "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

**Heart #3** – the crowded heart.

- Un-dealt with sin.
- Overshadowed.
- Preoccupied with the world.
- Distracted.
- Choked with worries.
- Choked by riches.
- Choked by pleasures (ἡδονή - hedonism).

### **Matt 6:24**

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

### **1 Tim 6:9-10**

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **1 John 2:15-17**

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

9 His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.

10 And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

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15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.



"It may not be some heinous deed  
That chills our heart and chokes the seed;

It's often just a trifling toy  
That grabs our eye and steals our joy."

- Gustafson

15 "But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Heart # 4 – the good heart.

Cultivated.

Receptive.

Honest (καλός - sincere)

Persevering.

Bears fruit.

### Luke 3:8

8 Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance,

- John the Baptist

"This soil alone is fruitful. It illustrates the individual who hears the Word, understands it, receives it within, is truly saved, and proves it by patiently producing fruit (see 1 Th. 2:13; 1 Pe 1:22-25). Not everybody produces the same amount of fruit (Mt. 13:8), but all true believers will produce some fruit as evidence of spiritual life. That fruit may include winning others to Christ (Ro 1:13), money given to God's work (Ro 15:25-28), good works (Col 1:10), Christian character (Gal 5:22-23), and praise to the Lord (Heb. 13:15)."

- Warren Wiersbe

### Application

1. Satan has great interest in not wanting you to respond to the Word.

#### 3 strategies:

1. Satan works immediately after hearing it to get you to dismiss it or to ignore it or to reject it. No time is spent thinking about it. It's here and its gone. Evidence of a hard heart.
2. When you respond with joy after hearing the Word, Satan brings temptation or persecution. Holding fast to the Word is not worth it. Not worth the trouble. The Word has no chance to grow deep.
3. Satan infiltrates your life with distractions that compete for your attention. It may be during a church service or a Bible study and your worried about your job, or your thinking about your stocks and bonds, your 401k, or your thinking about the Vikings game or your cabin up north, or your car or your grandkids.

2. The results of evangelism take time. These are seeds that take time to grow. Wait and see if this was good soil.
3. Good soil, good hearts, will be evident as we have witnessed in the prostitute in chapter 7 and the women in verses 1-3.

#### 4. Questions:

1. Are you open and receptive to the teaching of the Word?
2. How deep is your Christian life?
3. Do you need to pull some weeds?
4. Is your heart fertile ground for the Word?