HE WHO HAS EARS, LET THEM HEAR
LUKE 8:4-15
con·gru·ence

Agreement, harmony, conformity, or correspondence.
“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

CS Lewis
Today...

- **HEAR** the Truth *(Luke 8:4-15)*
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE** the Truth *(Luke 8:16-18)*
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE** the Truth *(Luke 8:19-21)*
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY** in THE Truth *(Luke 8:22-25)*
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!
Today...

- **HEAR the Truth** *(Luke 8:4-15)*
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE the Truth** *(Luke 8:16-18)*
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE the Truth** *(Luke 8:19-21)*
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY in THE Truth** *(Luke 8:22-25)*
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!
Be Fruitful
Our first passage (familiar) is a parable about HEARING.

There are 4 types of soils that represent the 4 types of hearts that HEAR (or do not) the Word.

Let’s read Luke 8:4-15
- Vv. 4-8 tells the parable
- Vv. 9-15 explains the parable
Seeds & Soil

- **Seeds**
  - *There’s never anything wrong with the seed*
    - The Word that God speaks is perfect in every way
  - The seed is *being sown in your heart right now!*
  - This text, however, is not about preaching, it’s about *hearing*

- **Soil**
  - If the seed is perfect, that leaves the problem as a *matter of the heart*
  - Let’s look at the *4 types of soil* of the heart
Four Soils to Explain How the Heart Hears the Word of God

1st Soil - “...along the path...”
- v. 12 interprets v. 5
- The heart is hard, packed down
- When you are at church, you are really not there
  - “not that song again...not another sermon about...”
  - Texting, talking, reading something else, half asleep
- The path of the heart is beat down in service to YOU
- Bottom line: when you are looking for something for you, remember that God will not share His glory with anyone and the seed is snatched away
- Note: Sometimes the heart must be broken, removing all pride, before the Word can be heard
2nd Soil - “…rocky soil…”

- v. 13 interprets v. 6
- You have allowed your heart to be broken enough to hear the Word
- You are excited about God’s Word, then when temptation come, it withers away
- We must receive the WHOLE gospel, not just cherry pick parts that get us excited
- ALL of God’s Word is perfect, not just the parts we want to hear!
- This reminds me of the rich young ruler
- Following Christ is about complete self-surrender, there is no partial surrender
3rd Soil - “…thorns…choked out”

- v. 14 interprets v. 7
- This heart hears the Word but it is **choked out** by the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world
- *It is not easy to speak against the pleasures of this world* – if you don’t believe that, try telling someone it’s more important to be in God’s house than a ballgame, on the lake, in the woods, etc.
- **Perhaps the greatest idol in America is not money, but entertainment**
  - From TV, to Facebook, new iPhones, computers, sports, tailgating, etc
  - When a QB can get $100M to throw a ball, $37M to sign the contract with a guaranteed $67 M & “The Dark Knight Rises” grosses $30.6 M in the midnight opener – I think the idol statement is clear
- He is a **jealous God and will have no other gods before Him!** – **NONE** (will see this in v. 19-21)
**Four Soils to Explain How the Heart Hears the Word of God (cont)**

- **4th Soil** - “...good soil...yielded a hundred fold”

  - v. 15 interprets v. 8
  - This is the heart that hears the word, and *through perseverance, produces fruit one hundred times*

  - **HOW does this happen?**

  Let’s go back to my neighbor’s garden
  - Preparing the ground
  - Planting the seed
  - Protecting & pruning the plants
  - Picking the fruits
When Jesus says, “he who has ears, let him hear” he is not talking about ears on the side of our head, but the ears of our heart.

But there are two kinds of hearing taking place (all people WILL respond to the gospel)
- Those who hear and are hardened
- Those who hear and are saved

Some will hear and not understand (hearts are hard), yet hearing God’s Word and rejecting it serves to judge the heart.
- See Isaiah 6:9-10, “And he said, ‘Go, and say to his people: Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand wit their hearts, and turn and be healed.”
- Time had run out on these people and they had rejected His Word and that would stand to judge them
- So, it’s not that the Word is ineffective for some – it is effective in revealing the heart, one way or another!
Today...

- **HEAR the Truth** (Luke 8:4-15)
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE the Truth** (Luke 8:16-18)
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE the Truth** (Luke 8:19-21)
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY in THE Truth** (Luke 8:22-25)
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!
Shine Your Light

- Let’s read 8:16-18
- Ok…so we move from fruit to light
- Throughout scripture, we know that bearing fruit is connected with doing good deeds
- We know that light helps illuminate your path
- And in Matt 5:16, Jesus connects the two and calls good deeds “light” that helps people see their way to the glory of God
- So, when your lamp is lit by the Word of God, your life becomes full of faith, joy, and good deeds (that you just can’t hide) — you can’t hide it under a bushel
- Is your life a light that draws others to the Truth?
Look again at vv.16-18

Really, vv.16-17 are telling us that once we experience the joy of the Lord, you just can’t hide it – you must SHARE iT

Then, v. 18 really serves as a summary verse of the entire passage up to this point (8:4-17)

“Take care how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks he has will be taken away.”

Let’s assume you are in the 25% who hear the Word and produce fruit, how is that you can “take care how you hear…”?

Remember the garden
- Preparing the ground
- Planting the seed
- Protecting & pruning the plants
- Picking the fruits
Preparing the Ground

“Loosen up” before the “game”
- Before you come to hear God’s Word, pray He would prepare your heart to hear from Him, be ready mentally, physically, spiritually to enter God’s house

Be a better listener
- Spend time mediating (not just talking) over His Word

Be intentional to remove weeds and thorns
- What worldly entertainment gets in the way of your growth?

Trust in the truth you already have
- Don’t keep looking for that “next” thing that “new” insight, that “motivational lesson” – the truth you have is sufficient

When you are in God’s House, THINK about what you sing, THINK about what you pray, THINK about what you hear
- “Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.” (2 Tim 2:7)
Today...

- **HEAR the Truth** (Luke 8:4-15)
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE the Truth** (Luke 8:16-18)
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE the Truth** (Luke 8:19-21)
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY in THE Truth** (Luke 8:22-25)
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!
Practice the Truth

- Let’s Read Luke 8:19-21
- What do you think?
- Was Jesus being rude?
- NO, Jesus was modeling something VERY IMPORTANT for us to hear
  - Our identity defines our activity, not vice versa
- We live in a culture where the stickers on the back of their car, the groups they are in, your job, your neighborhood, the sport they play, etc define who they are – NO! These are things we DO
- We are not human DOINGS, we are human BEINGS and our being, our identity, is in Christ
- So WHO we are determines WHAT we do
- And when we are a child of God, NOTHING, yes nothing, can be a close second to Him, not even our family
- If entertainment is perhaps our biggest idol in America, family would be a close second
- Think I’m over exaggerating the point – skip forward to Luke 9:59-62
Redefining Family

- What Jesus is saying is that those who are in Him are His brothers and sisters – His family
- There is a blood family relationship – his blood
- Members of His family are required to do two things – listen & obey
- If you are sitting there saying, you know, this just doesn’t feel like “family” to me, let me ask “what is the difference between going to a restaurant and a family dinner?”
- If you are at a restaurant and no one has refilled your drink, you can fill out a comment card
- If you are at home and no one has refilled your drink, you might want to get up and refill it yourself – why?
- The difference between a restaurant and a family dinner is whether or not you DO something
- Some of you may come to Broadmoor like it is a restaurant while others view it as your family
- If you are sitting back, criticizing, complaining about x, y, or x, you can fill out a comment card...OR...you can act like family and be part of the solution
- This is making God’s priorities your priorities
Today…

- **HEAR the Truth** (Luke 8:4-15)
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE the Truth** (Luke 8:16-18)
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE the Truth** (Luke 8:19-21)
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY in THE Truth** (Luke 8:22-25)
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!
Let’s read our final passage today — Luke 8:22-25

In this familiar story we see two important things about Jesus
- He was fully man (exhausted)
- He was fully God (power over creation)

The Sea of Galilee (AKA in OT Kinneret & in NT Sea of Tiberias, Sea of Gennesaret, or Sea of Chinnereth)

In the evening, storms can really come out of no where and if you are out in the middle...
Why were Jesus & the disciples out in the sea?

Jesus was *exhausted*...can you imagine his days?

He was tired because He was **FULLY MAN**

- Phil 2:5-11 tells us that Christ set aside the continual use of His divine attributes and became man so He could reconcile man back to God

He is so tired that he is sound *asleep in the boat*

No one wants to wake him, but they are *desperate* and tell him they are about to die

Jesus stands up, says stop and perhaps lays back down

How did the disciples react to this?

They ask “who is he”?  

This leads us to their conclusion (and ours) HE is **FULLY GOD**
“Where is your faith?”

- It’s easy to pick on the disciples for not getting it.
- However, if they were here today, I think they would turn that table.
- We have the full revelation of God, we have the complete NT account, brilliant commentaries, amazing podcasts, libraries full of books, testimonies a mouse click away.
- What storm are you facing right now?
- Do you ever feel like Jesus is “sleeping on the job” in your situation?
- Never forget that He is God over all creation and He is God over your situation.
- Perhaps the right question for you to wrestle with is “Where is your faith”?
- Remember, when you are scared, unsure how your situation is going to turn out...go to Jesus first.
- The disciples exhausted all their own efforts and went to Jesus as a last resort.
- We should go to Jesus first He is the author of creation and the author and perfecter of your life.
Today...

- **HEAR the Truth** *(Luke 8:4-15)*
  - Be Fruitful Soil!

- **SHARE the Truth** *(Luke 8:16-18)*
  - Shine Your Light!

- **PRACTICE the Truth** *(Luke 8:19-21)*
  - Make God’s Priority Your Priority!

- **TRUST FULLY in THE Truth** *(Luke 8:22-25)*
  - Trust in Him to Calm the Storms of Your Life!