

GOD TOLD ME: Good Reception

LUKE 8:4-15

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■ Central Church

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■ Social Media: #GodToldMe

To Hear God's Voice Recognize Life-giving Values

1. Prioritize the **Sowing** of God's Word (4-5).

2. Prize the **Knowing** of God's Word (5-10).

3. Perceive the **Growing** of God's Word (5-15).

Four Soil Samples:

- *Stubborn*
- *Superficial*
- *Strangled*
- *Soft*

Luke 8:4-15

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable,

⁵A 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. ⁶And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸And 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." ⁹And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰he 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.'

¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The 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. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵As 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. (ESV)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. This sermon emphasized the priority of preaching and a ministry of the Word. How will you make the gathering together of the church under the Word of God a priority in your family's life? How will you still emphasize the preached Word when you're on vacation or travel?
2. **Read Hebrews 1:1-2 and 2 Timothy 3:14-17.** Where do we look to hear God's voice? If the Scriptures are where we hear God's voice, why are modern Christians so prone to seek his voice in so many other places? How does the world propagate debased thinking? How can we be on guard to not be influenced by such lawless influences?
3. The parable reminds us that as we share God's Word it may not always take root and produce, but that we should continue to spread the seed liberally. What are some ways we can continue to share God's word with non-Christians and Christians alike?

Quote for the Week. . .

by Alistair Begg

[We] must understand that Christianity is not served by mindlessness, but by the knowledge of God through the Word of God. Such knowledge engages our minds, stirs our hearts, and transforms our lives. This knowledge is personal. How is it fostered? By listening to what He says (the priority of preaching), by engaging Him in conversation (the emphasis on prayer), by spending time in His company (the need for a devotional life), and by being with others who know Him too (the need for gathered worship). This knowledge is progressive and dynamic, not static. At the end of our journey, we should still be exclaiming with Paul: "I want to know Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Alistair Begg, Made For His Pleasure, Moody Press, 1996, p. 22.

