

Luke 8:4-15

1. We are going to take a careful look at the Parable of Soils.

- ✓ It is sometimes called the Parable of the Sower, but that's not really accurate because the sower and the seed are the same every time, but it's the soils that change.
 - ✓ It's a story about the conditions of the human heart and its receptivity to the Gospel.
 - ✓ So, we share the good news with the world, what type of response should we expect? There are 4 types according to Jesus.
 - ✓ It's not about the skill of the one who shares the truth; it's not about the truth; it's about the condition of the heart that hears it.
 - ✓ **Luke 8:4-8:** Parable means "to put alongside." Placing one thing alongside another so that a comparison can be made, so that we can better understand it.
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2. We have hit the point in Luke where Jesus begins to tell a lot of parables, and we need to understand why.

- ✓ Jesus told parables to help His disciples understand, but He also told them to keep others from understanding, **verses 9-10.**
 - ✓ This is a major turning point in Jesus' ministry. **Matthew 13:34** From this point on, Jesus hides His teachings from unbelievers.
 - ✓ Isaiah predicted this very thing. **Isaiah 6:10** This is God judging the people of Israel for their refusal to hear Him.
 - ✓ **Matthew 13:12, Luke 19:41** "If you don't listen when you can listen, you'll reach a place where you'll never be able to listen."
 - ✓ He spoke plainly to them, and they wouldn't believe, so now He speaks in parables. They loved the darkness, so He just let them have more of it.
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3. Nobody would have been mystified by this story; it is the application that they did not understand.

- ✓ They would have their fields with trails or roads around the edges or even through the middle if it were a big field.
- ✓ The farmer, when he sowed by hand, would fling the seed side to side and it would fall mostly on the plowed field, but some would fall on these areas where feet and cartwheels had turned the soil into more or less cement.

4. The Explanation

- ✓ **Verse 11:** Notice there is no definition or explanation for who the sower is because he or she can be anybody who knows the truth.
 - ✓ If you knew enough to be saved, you know enough to tell someone else.
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5. Lessons to learn; concentration leads to multiplication.

- ✓ This is not about the sower; the sower doesn't matter.
 - ✓ The seed is the Word of God; it is what brings us to faith. **1st Peter 1:23**
 - ✓ The seed is as powerful coming from you as it was coming to you. Trust the seed!
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6. Some people's hearts are like concrete, verse 12.

- ✓ Exposed to all the stomping's of whatever comes along, never plowed and broken up by conviction, contrition, and self-examination.
 - ✓ The seed can't penetrate because their heart is so hardened by unrestrained sin and sinful consequences in the world.
 - ✓ There's nothing wrong with the seed; there's nothing wrong with the sower; there's something terribly wrong with the heart.
 - ✓ The people of Jesus' day were like this; he spoke to them plainly and they refused to believe, so He just quit speaking to them.
 - ✓ The more they heard, the harder their hearts got, the more they wanted to kill Him.
 - ✓ **Luke 19:41** "If you don't listen when you can listen, a time will come when you'll never be able to listen."
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- ✓ What do you do if your heart is hardened?
 - 1) Realize your condition; the Bible says that the most deceitful thing in this world is the human heart.
 - ✓ If you stay where you are unsaved, you will eventually be catapulted into a Godless eternity with unspeakable sufferings.
 - 2) Cry out to God to plow the soil of your heart, so that His Word can grow in you.
 - 3) Ask Him to grant you repentance.
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