

Luke 8: The Soil of the Heart, Part 2

Luke 8:4-15 We saw last time this parable of the Soils where Jesus shows us where the obstacle is sharing the gospel. It's not with the sower or the seed; it's with the soil; it's with the heart, Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Ephesians 2:1-2.

1. Luke 8:4-13 We saw last time that the first type of heart is the concrete one; it's like the hardened soil of the road where seed just bounces off. Rejecting the forgiveness, mercy, grace, kindness, and salvation of God because their hearts won't let them.

2. The next soil, the next heart, the next response is a shallow or superficial one.

- ✓ They seem like almost the opposite of the hard heart; they seem receptive; they aren't just interested; they are emotional about it. **Verse 13**
 - ✓ Mark it carefully; "They believe for a while"; that is never a characteristic of true faith.
 - ✓ **John 8:31** Not because they are able to hold onto anything, but because God holds onto them. **John 10:27-30**
 - ✓ If they don't stay, it isn't because the gospel is weak; it is because they never believed it. **1st John 2:19**
 - ✓ Jesus knows how to corral His sheep, **John 10:27.**
 - ✓ Hear clearly what this parable teaches; some people respond to a gospel presentation for the wrong reasons.
 - ✓ They respond because they believe that Jesus will fix their problems.
 - ✓ Jesus will fix your problems gospel; Jesus will make your life better gospel; Jesus will make you happy gospel are not in the Bible!
 - ✓ People who come to Jesus for the wrong reasons do not believe in the real Jesus, but one that either we or they have concocted.
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- ✓ They want to get in on the Jesus party; they like the music and people; they like the idea that their problems will go away.
 - ✓ They respond to the idea of what Jesus has to offer enthusiastically, but when Jesus doesn't produce according to what they bought in for, they are out.
 - ✓ This is the same as the soil of the road only with a veneer of good looking soil on top.
 - ✓ The seed doesn't bounce, but the root does, and the plant will not last or produce fruit.
 - ✓ The sun makes good plants stronger, but it will quickly kill the plant with no root.
 - ✓ These fall away because they can't pass the test of genuine faith; they have believed in a false idea of Jesus which is a false gospel, and they will be revealed when they don't get what they bought in for.
 - ✓ They believed in their idea of Jesus and were even emotional about it. Have they believed in the real Jesus and true gospel? Only time and testing will tell the truth.
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