

Following Christ for Dummies Luke 8:4-21

This passage contains two “basics” about following Jesus.

- **Basic #1: HEAR AND RECEIVE GOD'S WORD.**

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 8:4-8 (New International Version)

God wants us to receive His Word with an intellect set to understand His will and a heart set to act on that will.

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹²Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. Luke 8:11-15 (NIV)

- First, the “word of God” is the good news about how to gain a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Second, the “word of God” is the completed Bible.

- Response #1: The seed that fell along the path represents indifference or unresponsiveness to God's Word.
- Response #2: The seed that fell on rocky ground represents an impulsive and superficial response to God's Word.
- Response #3: The seed that fell among thorns represents a distracted response to God's Word.
- Response #4: The seed that fell on good soil represents a receptive response to God's Word.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

The Crop Which a Receptive Believer Produces

- Winning people to Christ (Romans 1:13)
- Giving money to God's work (Romans 15:25-28)
- Good works (Colossians 1:10)
- Developing Christian character (Galatians 5:22-23)

- **Basic #2: HEAR AND OBEY GOD'S WORD.**

Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” ²¹He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.” Luke 8:19-21 (NIV)

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. James 1:22-24 (NIV)