

“Good Soil; Good Produce”

Luke 8:1-15

C. Get Your “Soil”/Heart Right.

1. “Plow up the Ground.”

This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: “Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.” Jeremiah 4:3
Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you. Hosea 10:12

2. Plant the Word.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8
Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 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 6:7-9

3. Protect your Heart.

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:1-3

What’s the Condition of your Heart today?

What is your life Producing?

A. Understand GOD’s Purposes.

1. His Word is like Seed; it’s meant to Produce Something.

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.” Luke 8:11

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. The question is: How Well are you Listening?

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 8:8b

“Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him.” Luke 8:18

B. Check Out Your “Soil” - Your Heart.

1. Hard, Unreceptive heart.

“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.”

“Those 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.” Luke 8:5,12

2. Shallow, Superficial heart.

“Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.”

“Those 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.” Luke 8:6,13

3. Crowded, Divided heart.

“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.”

“The 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.” Luke 8:7,14

4. Receptive, Productive heart.

“Still 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.”

“But 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 8:8,15

Faith@Home

Commit yourself to spending time with GOD and His Word on at least five days this week. Read the Bible passage(s) listed.

Ask GOD for understanding. Reflect on the verses you read and write down your answers to the question(s). Pray that GOD will guide you to walk in His Word.

Day One

Read Luke 8:1-15

1. If the various soils represent people's hearts/responsiveness to GOD's Word, which soil most closely pictures your heart?
2. If you would say your heart is "good soil," does it ever occur that you fall back into being like one of the other soils? How or when does this happen?
3. What do you need to do to keep yourself open and receptive to the Word of GOD? What will you do today?

Day Two

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

1. What does it mean that Scripture is "GOD-breathed?"
2. What is the Word of GOD useful for in our lives?
3. "Thoroughly equipped for every good work" - what would that look like for you? Are you pursuing that with all your heart?

Day Three

Read Jeremiah 4:3 and Hosea 10:12

1. Continuing the soils and seed imagery of Luke 8, what do you think it means to "plow" up the ground of our hearts?
2. What do you think you need to do in order to accomplish that?
3. Where will you start?

Day Four

Read 1 Peter 2:1-3

1. What are some of the things we need to get rid of if we are going to grow up in our salvation (verse 1)? Are these issues for you? Or, are there other things?
2. How much do babies crave their milk? Do you crave GOD's Word that way? If not, why not?
3. Have you "tasted that the LORD is good?" Does that make you want to know more and experience more of His truth and grace?

Day Five

Read Psalm 9

1. What does this Psalm tell you about GOD?
2. What does this Psalm tell you to do?
3. Pray that GOD will prepare you for our worship on Sunday?