

Luke 8:1-15

Introduction: This follows the official rejection of Jesus by the Jewish leaders (Matthew 12:22-50). They accused Him of being empowered by Satan. This brings about the monumental shift from a primarily **public** ministry to the masses to a primarily **private** ministry with the 12. This is His second preaching tour of Galilee.

Jesus is assisted in His preaching activity—8:1-3

- 1) Jesus' preaching activity—8:1
 - a) When? ¹ *And it happened some time afterward*
 - b) Where? **He** (emphatic) *traveled through towns and villages*
 - c) What did He do?
 - i) *preaching* [κηρύσσω]
 - ii) *and announcing the good news* [εὐαγγελίζω] *of the kingdom of God.*
- 2) Jesus' assistants—8:1b-3 (people who responded well to God's Word)
 - a) The men—*And the twelve were with Him,*
 - b) The women—² *and certain women who had been healed from evil spirits and sicknesses—*
 - i) Specifically
 - (1) The down-and-out—*Mary, called Magdalene, from whom had come seven demons,*
 - (2) The up-and-out—³ *and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's (Antipas) administrator,*
 - (3) The relatively unknown—*and Susanna,*
 - ii) Anonymously—*and many others who contributed to them* (Jesus and the 12) *out of their own* (feminine) *possessions.*

Jesus tells a parable—8:4-8

- 1) The setting for the parable—8:4 ⁴ *And while a large crowd was gathering and people from each town were traveling to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:*
- 2) His general activity—8:5a ⁵ *“A sower went out to sow his seed.*
- 3) Four specific results—8:5b-8a
 - a) Hard soil—*And as he sowed, some fell along [παρά] the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air ate it up.*
 - b) Shallow soil—⁶ *And other seed fell on [ἐπί] the (bed-)rock, and as soon as it sprouted, it withered away, because it had no moisture.*
 - c) Thorn-filled soil—⁷ *And other seed fell among [ἐν μέσοις] the thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it.*
 - d) Good soil—⁸ *But other seed fell into [εἰς] good soil, and having sprung up, it produced a crop, a hundred times as much.”*
- 4) Jesus' urgent warning—8:8b
 - a) *As He said these things, He cried out, “The one who has ears to hear, let him listen!”*

Jesus explains the parable to His disciples—8:9-15

- 1) The disciples want to know what this means—8:9 ⁹ *Now, His disciples were questioning Him, saying, “What might this parable be?”*
 - a) This is a form of prayer. It is good for us to pray, “Teach me.”
- 2) Jesus explains the parable to them—8:10-15
 - a) General principle of the availability of truth—8:10 ¹⁰ *And He said,*
 - i) To believers—*“To you^{pl} it has been given [pf. pass. ind.] (by God) to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God,*
 - ii) To unbelievers—*but to the rest in parables, so that although they are seeing they may not see, and although they are hearing they may not understand. (cf. Isaiah 6:9-10)*
 - iii) The Word divides people into two groups.
 - b) Specific principles of comparison—8:11-15
 - i) ¹¹ *Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.*
 - ii) Hard soil (no reception)—¹² *Those along [παρά] the path are the ones who hear;*
 - (1) *then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts,*
 - (a) *Why? so that they may not, having trusted, be saved.*
 - iii) Shallow soil—¹³ *And the ones on [ἐπί] the (bed-)rock are those who, when they heard,*
 - (1) Emotional reception—*welcomed the word with joy, but these have no root;*
 - (2) Temporary reception—*they trust for a while,*
 - (3) Reversed reception—*and in time of testing they withdraw.*
 - iv) Thorn-filled soil—¹⁴ *And that which fell among [ἐν] the thorns, these are the ones who have heard,*
 - (1) *and having gone out, are choked by*
 - (a) *the concerns (of life)*
 - (b) *and riches (of life)*
 - (c) *and pleasures of life [βίος],*
 - (2) *and they do not produce mature fruit.*
 - v) Good soil—¹⁵ *But that in [ἐν] the good [καλός] soil, these are those who, having heard the word*
 - (1) Inner reception—*in [ἐν] a beautiful [καλός] and good [ἀγαθός] heart,*
 - (2) Deliberate reception—*cling to the word,*
 - (3) Enduring reception—*and bear fruit in endurance [ὑπομονή].*
 - (a) The opposite of withdrawing (cf. 8:13)
- 3) Observations:
 - a) The sower, the seed, and the location are the same in all 4 types of soil. The difference is the soil itself.

Take-home truth: what kind of soil are you? You can tell what type of heart you have by your habitual response to the teaching of God’s Word.