

Following Jesus
Black Dirt Capital of the World
Luke 8:4-15

I. Message

a. The parable in a nutshell

- i. A farmer plants seed in four types of soil
- ii. Only one type of soil actually produced a crop

b. The explanation of the parable

- i. The seed is the Word of God – v.11 – **“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”**

ii. Human hearts are represented by four types of soil

1. Wayside (pathway)

- a. Birds eat the seed that doesn't sink in
- b. There is no plant and no fruit

2. Stony ground

- a. Plant springs up
- b. No depth of soil of for roots
- c. Scorched by the sun and dies

3. Thorny ground

- a. If you have ever gardened, you know weeds grow faster
- b. Choked the seed to death

4. Good ground

- a. Seed sprang up
- b. Increased
- c. Brought forth fruit

5. Three things inhibit the Word producing fruit

a. #1 – The devil (v.12)

- i. He is not omnipresent but he has plenty of helpers
- ii. They are there every time the gospel message is presented
- iii. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”**
- iv. **“Wayside” – where people come and go**
 - 1. There is constant movement here

2. Education, work and pleasure
3. Satan and his team have great success on the wayside
4. “Easy pickings” for Satan and his minions

b. #2 – Difficulty (v.13)

- i. A lot of people like to be “Christians” when it is easy
- ii. Difficulty has a way of revealing the depth of our faith

c. #3 – Distractions (v.14)

- i. Weeds typically have no problem growing any conditions
- ii. Jesus names 3 big ones!
 1. #1 – Worry (cares)
 2. #2 – Wealth (riches)
 3. #3 – Wants (pleasures)

II. Conclusion – receiving the Word with a heart of “good soil”

a. “15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

b. Proverbs has a lot to say about this concept: receiving truth

c. There are several different words **used in Proverbs** to describe this action: receiving truth

i. Moving toward – Natah (Nah-tah’)

1. To extend your neck to hear – go to the football, jump

2. Proverbs 4:20 “**incline** thine ear unto my sayings”

3. Application for us

a. How hard do you work to move toward the Word?

b. Are there times when we find convenient excuses not to

ii. Incline – Qashab (kah-shav’)

1. Reaching out – reach out for the football

2. Proverbs 4:2 “My son, **attend** to my words”

3. Do you have that spirit about the Word?

a. I have to have more!

b. Where can I get more?

iii. Receive – Laqach (lah-kak’)

1. Catch *and* hold on

2. Proverbs 2:1 “**Receive** my words”

a. Do you allow the wisdom of the Word to go with you

b. Do you make a move after you hear the Word?

iv. Hide – Tsaphan (sah-fan’)

1. To store as a treasure – tuck the football in like treasure

a. Do you treat the Word this way?

- b. You do if you want to be good soil that bares fruit
 - 2. Where are you storing Biblical wisdom?
 - a. Your mind
 - b. Are you memorizing Scripture?
 - 3. Proverbs 6:21 “21 **Bind** [commandments and law] continually upon thine heart”
- v. Keep – shamar (shah-mar’)
 - 1. To guard carefully – don’t fumble the ball
 - 2. Proverbs 4:21 “**keep** [my words] in the midst of thine heart”
 - a. To guard or protect
 - b. Proverbs 6:20 My son, **keep** thy father's commandment”
- vi. Hear – Shama (sha-maa’)
 - 1. To obey – to really hear it – run with the football
 - a. Are you really hearing wisdom?
 - b. Are you making Word-living your lifestyle?
 - c. This was the first word of Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.**”
 - d. Jews call this passage “The Shama”
 - e. The “Listen and Obey”
 - i. Proverbs 8:33 “**Hear** (really get it) instruction, and be wise”
 - ii. James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves

III. Conclusions

- a. Is it possible that the devil, difficulties or distractions are keeping you from bearing fruit?
- b. Or is the Word producing real fruit in your life? (with patience, enduring fruit, continual production)
- c. What receiving action might need some attention?
 - i. Move toward it
 - ii. Reach out for it
 - iii. Hold on to it
 - iv. Tuck it in
 - v. Protect it
 - vi. Obey it
- d. “Education without application is just entertainment” – Tim Sanders