

The Gospel According To

LUKE

Those Who Listen, Act, and Trust in the Lord
– and Those Who Don't

Luke 8:1-25

The Rural Ministry of Jesus in Galilee (vv1-3)

Jesus began visiting the cities and villages and teaching the kingdom of God (v1a)

He was accompanied by:

- The 12 disciples (v1b)
- Some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses (vv2-3a)
 - *Mary Magdalene*

The Rural Ministry of Jesus

Jesus began visiting the cities and villages and teaching in the synagogues.

He was accompanied by:

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- Some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases
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 - *Joanna – wife of Chuza, Herod's steward*
 - *Suzanna*

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- Some women who had been with Him
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 - *Joanna – wife of Chuza*
 - *Suzanna*

Luke 23:55 ⁵⁵Now the *women who had come with Him out of Galilee* followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid.

Luke 24:10 ¹⁰Now they were *Mary Magdalene* and *Joanna* and Mary the *mother* of James; *also the other women with them* were telling these things to the apostles.

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 - *Mary Magdalene*
 - *Joanna – wife of Chuza, Herod's steward*
 - *Suzanna*
- Many other women who also contributed financially to Jesus' ministry (v3b)

Background on Parables

Definition

- Transliteration of Greek *parabolē*, lit. “something thrown alongside” - to put one thing beside another for comparison
- A story or illustration from everyday life used to make a comparison or an analogy
- An earthly story with a heavenly meaning

Usage

- 60+ parables in the gospels
- ~35% of Jesus’ recorded sayings are parables

Purpose

- To convey spiritual truth concerning the kingdom of God in the person and teaching of Jesus
- Used to develop spiritual understanding in those willing to identify with Jesus
- Used to conceal spiritual understanding to those who reject Jesus

The Parable of the Soils (vv4-15)

The setting (v4)

- He was by the Sea of Galilee and taught a very large crowd from a boat

Mark 4:1 ¹He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

The Parable of the Soils (vv4-15)



crowd from a boat



The Parable of the Soils (vv4-15)

The parable given (vv5-8)

- The hard soil (v5)
- The rocky soil (v6)
- The thorny soil (v7)
- The good soil (v8)

The reason for parables (vv9-10)

The Parable of the Soils (vv4-15)

The parable explained (vv11-15)

- The **seed** is the word of God – the gospel (v11)
- The **sower** is anyone who shares the gospel message
- The **different soils** represent the various conditions of the heart, each with its distinct response to the gospel (vv12-15)

- The **hard soil** reflects a hardened heart utterly unwilling to receive the gospel (v12)
- The **rocky soil** reflects a shallow, superficial heart that initially embraces the gospel but that falls away due to temptations (v13)
- The **thorny soil** reflects a distracted heart that initially embraces the gospel but that falls away by being choked by the pleasures and other cares of life (v14)
- The **good soil** reflects a heart rightly prepared to receive the gospel (v15)

The Parable of the Soils (vv4-15)

Key takeaways

- Every person who hears the gospel has one of these hearts
- For the unsaved, this is an invitation to examine your heart – to listen and embrace the gospel
- For the saved:
 - *It reminds us to thank God for preparing our hearts to receive the gospel*
 - *It assures us that when we share Christ with others, their response reflects the condition of their heart (not our ability to persuade)*

The Parable of the Lamp (vv16-18)

The purpose of lighting a lamp is to put it on display so others see and benefit from it (v16)

- *Spiritual point:* One who is saved is to put the gospel on display so others can hear and see it and benefit from it

Everything that is hidden and secret will eventually come to light (v17)

- *Spiritual point:* Given enough time, the true condition of every person's heart will be fully revealed

Warning – take care how you listen! (v18)

- Because those who truly receive God's Word will be given more spiritual truth
- Because those who don't truly receive God's Word will lose what they think they spiritually possess

The Clarification of Jesus' Family (vv19-21)

Mary and Jesus' brothers unsuccessfully try to get near to Jesus (v19)

When informed of it, Jesus clarifies that His ultimate family bonds are with those who hear and obey the word of God (vv20-21)

Question:

- Where and with whom is your heart most at home?

The Calming of the Storm by Jesus (vv22-25)

Before the storm

- He and his disciples depart in a boat to cross the lake (vv22-23a)







The Calming of the Storm by Jesus (vv22-25)

Before the storm

- He and his disciples depart in a boat to cross the lake (vv22-23a)

During the storm

- An unexpected, fierce storm erupts and puts them in danger (v23b)
- They wake Jesus up in a panic to save them (v24a)
- Jesus immediately calms the wind and waves (v24b)

After the storm

- Jesus asked them “Where is your faith?” (v25a)
- The disciples were fearful and amazed at the power that Jesus possessed (v25b)

The Calming of the Storm by Jesus (vv22-25)

Key takeaways

- Jesus told His disciples then, and tells His disciples now, to fully trust in His knowledge and sovereign power in the midst of life's storms when we are tempted to be fearful
- In the storms of life, Jesus is still in the boat with us
- No situation can separate us from God's care and love, regardless of the outcome according to His divine plans

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