

Let Them Hear

(Luke 8:4-21)

Introduction

1. [Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.
2. Question: How has your life changed over the past year?
 - a. How has your life changed for Jesus over the past year?
 - b. How have the lives of others been impacted for Jesus through you over the past year?

We choose what kind of soil we will be [Luke 8:4-15]

1. [8:4-10] Parable: How to become good soil
 - a. It's not a passive process, as if we have no choice or it's dependent on personality.
 - b. [8:8] Focus: To bear spiritual fruit (in our own lives & the lives of others).
 - c. [8:9-10] When Jesus speaks in parables, it elicit two responses:
 - i. First 3 soils: Reject His Word (either now or later).
 - ii. Good soil: Receive & cultivate His Word.
 - d. Jesus' point: We choose what kind of soil we will be.
2. [8:11-15] 4 types of soils of the heart:
 - a. [8:11] Seed: The Word of God; Jesus [cf. John 1] & His teachings in the Bible.
 - i. The Word is about the King and life in His Kingdom.
 - b. [8:12] Road soil: Not caused by Satan; the soil of the heart is already hardened against the Word.
 - i. Every time we reject Jesus & His ways, our hearts are hardened more [cf. Rom 1:18-25].
 - c. [8:13] Rocky soil: Appears soft on the surface but underneath, it has the *same hard heart*.
 - i. It's not circumstances (trials/suffering), but hardness of heart that withers spiritual fruit.
 - d. [8:14] Thorny soil: Initial spiritual fruit, but choked out by distractions of life's worries, security, comfort.
 - i. Application: What do you place your trust in over God? [worship issue]
 - e. [8:15] Soft/fertile/good soil.

[Resonate] We choose how we respond to the Word [Luke 8:15]

1. [8:15] How do you become good soil? We choose how we respond to the Word of God.
 - a. Hear the Word: Biblically, it means to listen and respond/obey [cf. Psa 81:11; Jas 1:23-24].
 - i. By acting upon God's Word, it changes the condition of our heart as we experience its truth/blessing.
 - b. Retain the Word: Hold it tight as valued/treasured; dwell upon and meditate on the Word.
 - i. It shapes your mind/heart so when situations arise, you know how to respond; it's already part of you.
 - c. Persevere in the Word: Endure in it over time and through hard circumstances to bear fruit.
 - i. Results in spiritual impact on your life & others' lives.
2. Application: When God speaks into your life, how do you respond?
 - a. Do you outright reject it, have some growth but deep down resist, allow worry/security/comfort to crowd it out?
 - b. Or do you listen/obey, hold it/treasure it/dwell upon it, and endure in it despite circumstances?

[Impact] We choose what we do with Light [Luke 8:16-18]

1. The Word as light: Jesus switches metaphors to describe how good soil applies the Word & experiences spiritual fruit.
 - a. [8:16] Light illuminates the truth about Jesus: Through the testimony of your life.

- b. [8:17] Light exposes the truth about us: Reveals sin or growth in Christ.
 - i. Can choose to live in the Word now or later, as Jesus will return to expose & judge.
 - c. Over time, the truth comes out about who you really are, how much you've been transformed by the Word.
2. [8:18] Key: How you hear the Word determines what kind of spiritual fruit you will bear.
 - a. Whoever hears & applies the Word will be given more understanding & experience of its blessing & fruit.
 3. Application: We choose what kind of impact the light of Jesus & His Word will have on us.
 - a. Do you consistently dwell on & apply it until it becomes part of you?
 - b. Do you let others see Jesus in your life?

[Identity] We choose allegiance to Jesus' family [Luke 8:19-21]

1. [8:19-20] Jesus continues to teach how to become good soil, using His physical family as a live illustration.
 - a. At first, they did not respond to Him as the Word, King, God, Savior [cf. Mark 3:21].
 - b. Eventually they listen, believe & respond by following [cf. Acts 1:14; Jas; Jude].
2. [8:21] Identity issue: We need to choose allegiance to Jesus' family.
 - a. Jesus' real family are those who hear & apply God's Word in their lives.
 - b. [Side Note] This also means we should treat all who hear & respond to Jesus & His Word as true family.
 - c. Family isn't just by birth, but new birth in Christ; not just by blood, but Jesus' shed blood.
3. Application: Jesus leaves us with a choice: Where's your allegiance? Will you be a member of His true family?
 - a. It depends on how we hear & apply His Word.

Conclusion: Let them hear

1. When we internalize Jesus & His teachings, it changes the condition of our hearts.
 - a. Do you hear Him? Are you responding to Jesus & His Word?
 - b. As you hear & apply the Word & let it shine, you'll resonate with Jesus and experience fruit/impact.
 - c. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.