

Take Care How You Hear (Luke 8:1-18)

Have you ever thought you heard something but actually missed it? Jesus urges us to take care how we hear. The Kingdom of God comes through true and abiding hearing. Do you have ears to hear?

1. A Gospel Movement (Luke 8:1-4)

Jesus is on a movement to bring the Kingdom of God throughout Israel...and the world.

It's His Father's will that drives and moves him.

It's a revolutionary movement changing the lives of individuals and societies alike.

The Disciples who follow Jesus are themselves a proclamation and demonstration of the Kingdom. We also can display the Kingdom by our community as we follow Jesus.

2. Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:5-15)

Stories and illustrations that bring God's Kingdom to strikingly ordinary life is what Jesus parables are.

There are 3 tests of our heart/ hearing that Jesus gives: A Hard Heart, A Shallow Heart, a Divided Heart.

It is only the good soil that hears and endures.

We are recipients of God's sowing. Ask him to make our hearts good soil. Receive the seed and then sow the seed.

3. Everything Visible (Luke 8:16-18)

How we hear will be revealed. We can't hide behind excuses or half-truths. What we care for and love will be made known.

For those who hear God's kingdom and understand, they will be given more and more. His kingdom will invade and overtake their lives. For those who deceptively think they have his kingdom, even what "they think" they have will be taken away.

Questions for discussion

1. Read Luke 8:1-18. What areas of this passage stand out, encourage, or surprise you?
2. What do you think moved Jesus to travel across Israel from village to city?
3. What can we learn from this passage about the kingdom of God? About Discipleship?
4. Why does Jesus tell this parable? What are some lessons we can learn?
5. What are the four soils in the story? What are the differences between them?
6. What was the role of the sower? How does this role both encourage and challenge us?
7. How does this parable teach us about Jesus ministry? How does it reveal both our need for Jesus and His provision for us? Hint...We can't change the soil of our heart, He can!
8. Why does Jesus care so much about how we hear? What are the effects of not truly hearing and understanding?
9. Why does Jesus emphasize that nothing is truly secret or hidden? How does this change the way we listen to Jesus?