

	#VineChurchBE			
1 Be Open				

Pastor Todd Schlechty
January 8, 2017

Be Open
Luke 8:5-18

"If we were supposed to talk more than we listen, we would have two tongues and one ear." - Mark Twain

"Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" - Jesus; in Luke 8:8

What happens when we listen to God with an open heart?

The Parable of the Sower.

Luke 8:5-8 *"The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. 8 Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

Luke 8:9 *His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.*

Jesus' Explanation of the Parable

Luke 8:10-15 *And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND. 11 Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. 12 Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. 14 The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."*

A Sowing God + The Word of God + Four Types of Hearts =

1. **Beside the Road (v. 12)** = _____
2. **Rocky Soil (v. 13)** = _____
3. **Thorns (v. 14)** = _____
4. **Good Soil (v. 15)** = _____

Point:

Luke 8:18 *"So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."*

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



- When have you had a hard heart, closed to God's truth?
- When have you had a shallow heart to God's truth?
- When have you had a busy heart to God's truth?
- What can you do to be open hearted to God's truth?

How do we listen to God?

1. Daily devotional time (Reading the Bible to hear from God, prayer, meditation on a verse of Scripture, listening to sermons or Bible teaching, listening to or singing worship songs.)
2. Family devotional time (hold a family devotional time. If you want to know how let me know.)
3. Find a more mature Christian to disciple you.
4. Join a small group that uses the means of grace (Bible study with application, prayer, fellowship, food)
5. Read classic devotional books (*The Imitation of Christ* – Thomas a Kempis; *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* – John Wesley; *My Upmost for His Highest* – Oswald Chambers; *Christian Secret to a Happier Life* – Hannah Whithall Smith; *The Pursuit of God* – Tozer;
6. Attend Spiritual Retreats
7. Memorize Scripture

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email pastortodd@thevineva.org to set up an appointment.