

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – June 27, 2021

Theme: Lessons from the Life of Jesus Topic: Jesus: His Teaching on the Word of God

Main Text: Luke 8:4-15

Key verse: Luke 8:15: *“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” (NKJ)*

INTRODUCTION: We commonly refer to this popular teaching of Jesus as the Parable of the Sower. As the Parable of the Sower, what the Sower sows is the word (Mark 4:14). In Mark’s account of the same parable, Jesus declared that anyone who did not grasp the substance of this parable would never understand anything else about the Kingdom of God. (Mark 4:13). Our daily walk with Him; prayer life, our wellbeing in the world, are all tied to our meditation on and obedience to God’s Word (John 8:31; 15:7; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3). Way back, Moses told the children of Israel, *“Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”* Deuteronomy 32:46-47. More importantly, Jesus Himself said to His disciples, *“... The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”* (John 6:63).

1. **(a) Luke 8:12-15. What is it that differentiates the good soil (verse 15) and the wayside (verse 12)? (b) Read Nehemiah 8:7,12; Proverbs 4:7b; Psalm 32:9; Matthew 13:18-19; John 6:63; 17:8; Ephesians 1:17-18. Why is understanding the word of God so important?**

A seed is a basic part of any plant. A seed is found inside a fruit which converts into a new plant when we plant it. Hence, the seed is the most important part, and without the seeds, the fruits we enjoy or anticipate cannot be obtained at all. According to biology, a mature seed contains an embryo and the food it will need to grow into a new plant. Seeds provide a great reproductive advantage in being able to survive for extended periods until conditions are favorable for germination and growth. God’s Word, like seed, has within it the power of its own life. It is a living thing (Hebrews 4:12). It is spirit and life. (John 6:63). It cannot, should not, and will not return to God without achieving its purpose (Isaiah 55:11). Yet, we see how the seed ‘failed’ to bear the desired fruit in 3 out of 4 instances.

2. **Read Luke 8:12-14. (a) What obstacles does the word of God encounter among people? (b) Give everyday examples of these obstacles and how they affect the word of God in a person. (c) How might we protect our hearts from these weapons?**

During His ministry on earth, Jesus repeatedly highlighted the fact that we cannot succeed in our walk with God without a personal and collective devotion to knowing God’s Word (John 5:39). He often asked His audience, *“Have you never read the Scripture...?”* Twice, He declared in His most touching prayer, *“I have given them the words which You have given Me...”* (John 17:8,14). But as paramount as the word of God is, He also acknowledged that some would *“Seeing they may not see and hearing they may not understand.”* (Luke 8:10b). According to the NIV Study Bible, Eastern cultures of Jesus’ day used to first scatter seeds in the field before being plowed into the soil. Perhaps with that in mind, when Jesus finished telling the parable, He concluded with *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words”* (Luke 8:8b). This incorruptible, living, and active word of God needs to be plowed into the soil of our hearts for it to produce the desired fruit.

3. **Read Luke 8:12-15; Psalm 119:9-16; (a) What conditions make your heart a fertile soil for God’s Word? (b) What practical steps can the believer in Christ take to maintain a Word-ready heart for God? (c) What role does *“... a good and noble heart, and hold on to it tightly, and ... with patience”* play in this?**

Prayer: *Father, please grant me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, open the eyes of my understanding that I may know what the hope of Your calling is, what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of Your power toward us who believe.*
Amen.