

BE A BRINGER

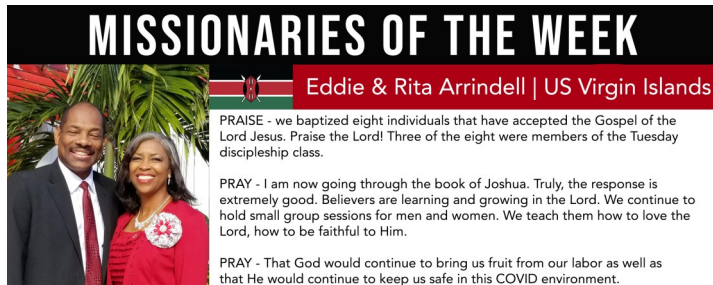
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK
Eddie & Rita Arrindell | US Virgin Islands

PRAISE - we baptized eight individuals that have accepted the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Praise the Lord! Three of the eight were members of the Tuesday discipleship class.

PRAY - I am now going through the book of Joshua. Truly, the response is extremely good. Believers are learning and growing in the Lord. We continue to hold small group sessions for men and women. We teach them how to love the Lord, how to be faithful to Him.

PRAY - That God would continue to bring us fruit from our labor as well as that He would continue to keep us safe in this COVID environment.

The Story Of The Sower, Seed, And Soils

Jesus described four different kinds of hearts, three of which did not produce any fruit.

The hard soil (vv. 5, 12). This soil represents the person who hears the Word but immediately allows the devil to snatch the seed away. How did the heart become hard? The “wayside” was the path that ran through the common field, separating the plots; and the foot traffic hardened the soil. Whatever goes into the ear or eye finally enters the heart, so be careful who is allowed to “walk on your heart.”

The shallow soil (vv. 6, 13). This soil illustrates the emotional hearer who quickly responds to the message, but his interest wanes and he does not continue (see John 8:31–32). In many parts of the Holy Land you find a substratum of limestone covered with a thin layer of soil. The shoot can grow up, but the roots cannot go down, and the sun withers the rootless plant. The sun represents the testing that comes to all professing believers to prove their faith. Sun is good for plants if they have roots. Persecution can deepen the roots of a true Christian, but it only exposes the shallowness of the false Christian.

The crowded soil (vv. 7, 14). This soil illustrates the person who does not repent and “weed out” the things that hinder the harvest. There is enough soil so the roots can go down, but not enough room for the plant to grow up and produce fruit. The plant is crowded out and the fruit is choked. “Cares, riches, and the pleasures of this life” are like weeds in a garden that keep the soil from being fruitful. The person with the “crowded heart” comes closest to salvation, but he still does not bring forth “fruit to perfection.”

The good soil (vv. 8, 15). This soil alone is fruitful. It illustrates the individual who hears the Word, understands it, receives it within, is truly saved, and proves it by patiently producing fruit (see 1 Thes. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:22–25). Not everybody produces the same amount of fruit (Matt. 13:8), but all true believers will produce some fruit as evidence of spiritual life. That fruit may include winning others to Christ (Rom. 1:13), money given to God’s work (Rom. 15:25–28), good works (Col. 1:10), Christian character (Gal. 5:22–23), and praise to the Lord (Heb. 13:15).

Jesus gave this story to encourage the disciples in their future ministry, and to encourage us today. When you consider how much teaching, preaching, and witnessing goes on in the course of a month or a year, you wonder why there is such a small harvest. The fault does not lie with the sower or the seed. The problem is with the soil. The human heart will not submit to God, repent and receive the Word, and be saved. Faith is not a matter of IQ or education; it is a matter of humbly preparing the heart to receive God’s truth (James 1:19–21).

Source: Bible Exposition Commentary by Warren Wiersbe

KEY VERSE

Luke 8:8 (NKJV)

“But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Luke 8:4-8; Psalm 46:10; Psalm 122:1

Prioritize Time To Hear God’s Word

1. What do you do to prioritize the hearing of God’s Word? Why is it important to you?
2. In a time of quiet ask God to show you places in your heart and mind where he wants to till, soften, and prepare you to hear his Word. What is God showing you about your heart?

Tuesday: Luke 8:9-10; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16

Seek To Understand The Meaning Of God’s Word

3. How did the disciples seek to understand the meaning of the parable?
4. How do you seek to understand the meaning of God’s Word?

Wednesday: Luke 8:11-14; I Peter 5:8-9; I Corinthians 10:13

Avoid Distractions From God’s Word

5. What are some of the ways that Satan keeps the Word from penetrating into the hearts of hearers?
6. What can we do to overcome the distractions of the world?

Thursday: Luke 8:15; John 8:31, 14:15

Do What God’s Word Says

7. How would you describe your heart right now?
8. How does Jesus describe the people represented by the good ground?
9. What are some areas of your life where you are obedient to God’s Word? Are there any areas where you are not obedient?

Friday: Luke 8:16-18; Matthew 5:14-16

Share God’s Word With Others

10. What are some of the competing desires (weeds) in sharing the gospel with people?
11. Why do you think the sower cast seed everywhere instead of sowing more on the good soil and less on the soil he knew wouldn’t produce a harvest? What is the implication for the proclamation of the gospel?
12. What is God teaching you through this parable about Him, yourself, and others?