

C. Don't be distracted by the world.
"Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity." Luke 8:14

IV. DO WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS

Jesus revealed that the evidence of a "good heart" is fruitfulness and faithfulness.

"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." Luke 8:15

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." John 8:31

V. SHARE GOD'S WORD WITH OTHERS

Jesus explained that those who have been given "light" are responsible to share it with others.

"16 "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.

17 For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.

18 Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

Luke 5:16-18

"14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Obediently Receive God's Word

JESUS' STORIES

The Story Of The Sower, Seed & Soils

Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

A. Jesus was a master story teller. The stories He told were called "Parables." A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus explained why he told these stories,

"And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables? He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given'".

Matthew 13:10-11

He used common subjects and every day experiences to reveal deep truths about God, His kingdom and ourselves.

B. There are approximately forty parables in Matthew, Mark and Luke that Jesus taught. This teaching series will focus on eight of these parables that reveal valuable lessons for building your story today. The messages include:

Feb 20	The Story Of The Wise & Foolish Builders
TODAY	The Story Of The Sower, Seed & Soils
Mar 6	The Story Of The Good Samaritan
Mar 13	The Stories Of The Hidden Treasure & The Pearl Of Great Price
Mar 20	The Story Of The Talents
Mar 27	The Story Of The Prodigal Son
Apr 3	The Story Of The Rich Man & Lazarus
Apr 10	The Story Of The Great Feast

Come and hear these messages learn valuable lessons for building your story today.

C. **TEXT:** Luke 8:4-18

The Actors:

- The sower is God and anyone who distributes the Word of God.
- The seed is the Word of God.
- The soil is the human heart.

The Lesson: Obediently receive God's Word.

HOW TO OBEDIENTLY RECEIVE GOD'S WORD

I. PRIORITIZE TIME TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

A great multitude prioritized time to hear Jesus tell this story.

"4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

5 "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

8 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!" Luke 8:4-8

A. Prioritize time each day to hear God's Word through a "quiet time".

"Be still, and know that I am God;" Psalm 46:10a

B. Prioritize time each Sunday to hear God's Word through a church service.

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1

II. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF GOD'S WORD

Jesus told this story to provide understanding.

"9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?"

10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'" Luke 8:9-10

A. God's Word provides understanding into the "*mysteries of the kingdom of God.*"

"The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple." Psalm 119:130

B. You must study God's Word to determine the correct understanding.

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

III. AVOID DISTRACTIONS FROM GOD'S WORD

Jesus said the Bible is the "*seed*" for spiritual growth.

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

Luke 8:11

A. Don't be distracted by Satan.

"Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." Luke 8:12

"8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world." I Peter 5:8-9

B. Don't be distracted by temptation.

"But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away." Luke 8:13

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. I Corinthians 10:13