



WELCOME TO CEC..... Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER We stand and lift up our hands
PRAYER
SINGING TOGETHER I am who You say I am
UPDATES Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER King of Kings, Majesty
Mighty to Save
BIBLE READING Luke 8:1-15 (Church Bible page 1089)
MESSAGE Taught by Pastor Phill
SINGING TOGETHER Come behold the wondrous mystery



Can you see it? ~1
How to respond to God's Word. (Parable of the Sower)
Luke 8:1-15

HOW TO UNDERSTAND PARABLES:

1. Parables are purposely _____ clear.

'The kingdom of God has come. Repent and believe the good news.' Mark 1:15 NIV

'While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."' Luke 8:4-8 NIV

'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.' Luke 8:10 NIV

2. Parables purposely _____ clear.

'He who has ears to hear, let him hear.' Luke 8:8 NIV

'The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you.' Luke 8:10 NIV

THREE VITAL LESSONS:

1. How the kingdom of God _____.

'This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.' Luke 8:11 NIV

'He who has ears to hear, let him hear.' Luke 8:8 NIV

2. The disappointing _____ to the kingdom of God.

1. The _____ response.

'Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.'

Luke 8:12 NIV

2. The _____ response.

'Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.'

Luke 8:13 NIV

3. The _____ response.

'The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.'

Luke 8:14 NIV

3. The enduring _____ to the kingdom of God.

'Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.' Luke 8:8 NIV

'But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.' Luke 8:15 NIV

'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'' Matthew 7:21-23 NIV

'If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.'

John 15:6 NIV

'Because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold— I am about to spit you out of my mouth.' Revelation 3:16 NIV

'Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.' Hebrews 3:12, 14 NLT



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

1. Read the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:4-15. Work through the questions to get a good understanding of the parable:

- What do the different kinds of soil represent?
- What happens to the seed in each kind of soil?
- What are the four kinds of people represented by the soil?
- Why are the birds able to find the seed on the hard path? What kind of person does this example represent?
- The shallow soil results in quick growth that fades quickly in the heat. What kind of person does this soil represent?
- What are the weeds that prevent growth and fruitfulness in a person's life?
- What is the fruit that is produced by the seed growing in the good soil?

2. In the story, Jesus implies that his teaching is like seeds. What do you think Jesus expects to happen in response to his teaching? See Luke 8:8.

3. Looking back on your life experiences, can you think of a time when:

- you've been like the hard ground of the path—you had the opportunity to hear the Word of God, but you didn't allow it to take root inside you?
- What about a time when you were like the rocky ground—you were enthusiastic about your faith, but you weren't able to nourish it and it faded away?
- Has there been a time when you've been like the ground full of thorns, and you've allowed busyness, worries of daily life to prevent your faith from growing?
- Has there been a time when you've been like the fertile ground in the parable of the sower, and the Word of God has taken root in you, creating a fruitful spiritual life? What was going on in your life during that time? Why do you think you were more fruitful soil at that time, and not at other times?

Watch us on



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.