



# REIGNITING YOUR PASSION FOR CHRIST

A Study of the Gospel of Luke

## PRESCRIPTION FOR A HEALTHY HEART LUKE 8:4-15

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you ever wondered why some people respond to God's Word immediately and enthusiastically, while others resist and rebel against it? Jesus answers that question in the first of many parables He told.

- I. Understanding Parables
  - A. Definition of "Parable": An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
  - B. Characteristics of Parables
    1. Parables teach only one **truth**.
    2. Parables must be understood in terms of **culture**.
    3. Parables are meant to both **clarify** and **obscure** God's truth.

Luke 8:9-10 <sup>9</sup> And His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable might be.

<sup>10</sup> 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, in order that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.'

4. Parables must be read in \_\_\_\_\_.

II. The Context Of Luke 8

Luke 8:10 “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, in order that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.’”

III. The Parable Of The Soils (Luke 8:4-8)

A. The **Hard** Soil (Luke 8:5)

Luke 8:5 “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.”

B. The **Thin** Soil (Luke 8:6)

Luke 8:6 “And other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.”

C. The **Weed-Infested** Soil (Luke 8:7)

Luke 8:7 “And other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it, and choked it out.”

D. The **Good** Soil (Luke 8:8)

Luke 8:8 “And 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.’”

IV. The Meaning Of The Parable (Luke 8:9-18)

Luke 8:11 “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.”

Four Conditions of the Human Heart

A. The **Impenetrable** Heart (Luke 8:12)

Luke 8:12 “And those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not believe and be saved.”

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 “<sup>10</sup>and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false. <sup>12</sup>in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”

B. The **Shallow** Heart (Luke 8:13)

Luke 8:13 “And 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.”

C. The **Strangled** Heart (Luke 8:14)

Luke 8:14 “And 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.”

D. The **Responsive** Heart (Luke 8:15)

Luke 8:15 “And 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.”

V. Prescription For A Healthy Heart

A. For the Hard Heart

B. For the Shallow Heart

C. For the Strangled Heart

Conclusion