



Can You Hear Me Now?

By Jeff Bedwell on January 12, 2022

READING: Luke 8

Jesus' parable of the sower, the seed and the soils has much to teach us about how we can prepare our hearts to hear God speak to us by His Spirit through His Word.

First, cultivate an open heart and mind (vv. 5, 12). The first soil represents a closed mind or a hardened heart. Our hearts can be hardened by such things as pride, fear or bitterness. The enemy leverages these things so we do not hear and respond to God's Word. Listening to the Word of God in a life transforming way is spiritual warfare that the enemy will oppose at every opportunity.

Secondly, do not settle for shallow responses (vv. 6, 13). The second type of soil represents a superficial mind. Some people get excited about new information or insight, but their implementation of the Word is shallow. We perhaps all have met people who seem to have a lot of "bible knowledge" but their lives exhibit very little fruit of the Holy Spirit. Persecution or testing may arise because of the Word. This will most likely increase even in our culture. Though some people initially received the word joyfully, when trouble comes, they "fall away."

A third way to prepare our hearts to hear God speak is to beware the barrenness of busyness (vv. 7, 14). The third type of soil represents a distracted mind. All sorts of things can choke out the deep work of God's Word in our lives such as worries, riches and pleasures. It does not have to be "bad" things, even good things can distract us from the best thing of hearing and responding to God. We must continually work to prioritize time to listen to God speak through His Word.

A powerful principle that prepares us to hear God speak is deciding in advance to obey whatever God tells you to do when He tells you to do it (vv. 8, 15). The fourth type of soil represents a willing heart and mind that is eager to hear and obey God's Word. When God speaks, it is not to give us an opinion to be considered, but an order to be obeyed! True fruitfulness and fulfillment will come into my life as I set my heart and life to hear and obey whatever God says to me through His Word.

Which of the four types of soil best describes your life right now? What adjustments do you need to make to have a more receptive heart and mind to hear God speak?

PRAYER: *Father, nothing is more important in my daily walk with You than how I respond to You through Your Word. Help me make whatever adjustments are necessary to be not only a hearer, but a doer, of Your Word.*

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 9

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