

Reflection Questions: Luke 8:1-18

For the message, "Take Care How You Hear" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 7, 2025

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text:

8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.....

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: **5** "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 ate it up. **6** Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

9 His disciples asked him what this parable meant. **10** He said, "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."

11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. **12** 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. **13** Those on the rocky ground 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. **14** 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. **15** 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....

18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- As the crowds gather, Jesus speaks about the different types of soils / hearts the seed / message of his gospel comes into contact with. How would you describe the goal of Jesus scattering the message of the gospel as a sower scatters seed?
- How do you find Jesus' description of the different reactions to his message helpful? In what ways does it help you make sense of the many different responses people have to Jesus & his message?
- Dial in on verse 18. Why does Jesus tell his audience and us to take care how we hear?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus' followers producing fruit in their lives as they embody this passage in their neighborhoods and workplaces of our city?
- What are some ways we can encourage one another as we seek to have God's word planted more deeply within us?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How does this text help us to see/ understand the kind of church Jesus needs MHC to be for the sake of his mission to our city?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

Let these verses from the song, "Show Us Christ," be a useful prayer for you and for your Life Group:

Prepare our hearts, O God, help us to receive
Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief
Plant your Word down deep in us, 'cause it to bear fruit
Open up our ears to hear, lead us in Your truth

Your Word is living light, upon our darkened eyes
Guard us through temptations, makes the simple wise
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave
Riches for the needy soul, come speak to us today