

“GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU”

Christianity Illustrated #1

The Parable of the Soils

Luke 8:4-15

“When Jesus said this, he called out, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’” (verse 8b)

1. HAVE AN OPEN MIND

“...Some seed fell along **the path**: it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.” (verse 5)

“Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes along and takes away the word from their hearts, so they cannot believe and be saved.” (verse 12)

The hardened path = A CLOSED MIND

“Get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent, and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” James 1:21 (NIV)

2. MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

“Other seed fell on shallow soil with rock beneath. This seed began to grow but soon withered and died for lack of moisture.” (verse 6 LB)

“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.” (verse 13)

The shallow soil = A SUPERFICIAL MIND

3. REMOVE DISTRACTIONS

“Other seed fell among thorns which grew up with it and choked the plants” (verse 7)

“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 don’t mature.” (verse 14)

The soil with weeds = A PRE-OCCUPIED MIND

4. DO WHAT GOD SAYS

“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.” (verse 15)

“Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!” James 1:22 (NIV)

The good soil = A WILLING MIND