

THE HONEST AND GOOD HEART

Lk 8:4-15

INTRODUCTION:

- > A. The parable of the sower depicts different attitudes men manifest toward the word of God
- B. While it deals with four kinds of soil, in reality there are only two: the kind that will not bring forth fruit, (effectively receive the word) and the kind that will bring forth fruit because it effectively receives it.
- C. This latter kind of soil is the honest and good heart
- D. **(Title)** Note some characteristics about

DISCUSSION:

I. AN ATTENTIVE HEART ("having heard the word") V.15

- A. Even the powerful gospel cannot influence those who do not hear Rom 1:16
 - 1. Those who have no knowledge establish their own righteousness Rom 10:3
 - 2. Those who do not hear will have no faith Rom 10:17
 - 3. These will always be making wrong and prejudiced decisions in spiritual matters
- B. When God speaks, men need to hearken (listen)
 - 1. The have not hearkened unto my words Jer 6:19
 - 2. To hearken is better than fat of rams 1Sam 15:22
 - 3. To hear the apostles is to hear the Father and Son Lk 10:16

II. A DISCERNING HEART (recognize & value Divine truth) V.15

- A. Determine whether these things are so Acts 17:11
 - 1. Encouraged in Philipians Phil 1:10 (footnote in ASV approve = distinguish between the things Which differ)
 - 2. Commended in the Thessalonians 1Thess 2:13
 - 3. Source test is important (from heaven or men) Matt 21:25
- B. Prove all things hold fast that which is good 1Thes 5:21
 - 1. Involves putting to the test
 - 2. Without testing we can't know or hold fast to that which is good

III. A FAITHFUL HEART ("keep it" KJV "holds fast the Word" ASV) V. 15

- A. The ultimate purpose of Truth is realized in this quality
 - 1. From "KATECHO", "to hold firmly, to keep firm possession of", i.e., allowing Truth to influence disposition and deportment continually
 - 2. Note the conditions of faithfulness in 1Cor 15:1,2 (if ye hold fast)
 - 3. Encouraged in 2Thess 2:15
- B. Implications of holding fast the word
 - 1. Allowing it to completely control our lives, refusing to compromise it for peace, favor or gain
 - 2. Hold it fast when tempted, tried, discouraged, "in season and out"
 - 3. Lest we drift Heb 2:1

IV. A FRUITFUL HEART (bringing forth fruit) V. 15

- A. Fruitfulness always in connection with the word (i.e. doing Truth)
 - 1. Herein is God glorified Jhn 15:8
 - 2. This is His word working in His people 1Thess 2:13
 - 3. The fulfillment of Paul's prayer Col 1:10
- B. Can be fruitful only be abiding in Christ (the vine) Jhn 15:4

CONCLUSION:

- A. Certainly we must all cultivate this kind of heart, the kind that will listen to Truth, recognize its value, hold fast to it, thereby allowing fruit to be produced in our lives
- B. Do you have a heart willing to listen and discern truth from error? Heb 5:14
- C. The seed will only produce fruit in the honest and good heart and reward is predicated on our bearing fruit for the Lord. Note the context just previous to Matt 7:21!