

How have you responded with your life?

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Sermon Notes

April 11, 2010
The Chapel on the Campus

How will you respond now?

How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards. ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again.
I CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.
JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith ...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast."
EPHESIANS 2:8, 9

How Do You Respond?

The God Who Seeks and Saves

Luke 8:4-15

How we respond to Jesus' authoritative word in our lives will determine our lives' fruitfulness in the kingdom.

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "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 of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 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, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

LUKE 8:4-8 (NIV)

Jesus Speaks to the Crowds in Parables

The Parable of the Sower v. 5-8A

- Seed fell along the path v. 5
- Seed fell _____ the rock v. 6
- Seed fell among thorns v. 7
- Seed fell _____ good soil v. 8A

The Call to Hear v. 8B

His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 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.'" LUKE 8:9-10 (NIV)

Disciples Ask Questions

Parables _____ truth to those who "hear" and conceal truth to those who "don't understand."

Overexposure to unreceived truth leads to a _____ of the heart.

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 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. 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. 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. 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." LUKE 8:11-15 (NIV)

Jesus Explains the Parable to the Disciples

Definitions v. 11-12

- Seed = Word of God through Jesus concerning the Kingdom
- Farmer/sower = Jesus
- Soil = The human _____

Life Responses

1. Unresponsive v. 12
2. Impulsive/ _____ v. 13

They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

1 JOHN 2:19

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

JAMES 1:2

3. Preoccupied v. 14
4. Responsive
 - From the heart
 - Throughout life

_____ / _____

with patient perseverance