



Luke 8:1-21

In this section of Luke we're going to read 3 stories – one very famous. But the issue at hand seems to be when is listening not really listening?

Personal Preparation 1 – The Parable of the Sower

Read Luke 8:1-15

1. In v.1-3, who is with Jesus? What are their characteristics?

2. Jesus speaks his parable to a large crowd that was gathering (v.4). We have the parable in v.4-8a,¹ and the explanation in v.11-15. Write down Jesus' explanation for the different parts of the parable.

Image	Explanation
v.5 - Seed	
v.5 - On the Path	
v.6 - On the Rock	
v.7 - Among Thorns	
v.8 - On Good Soil	

3. Do you think the parable in itself (i.e. in v.4-8 without Jesus' explanation) is self-explanatory?

4. What then do you make of Jesus comment in v.8b, and the disciples reaction in v.9?

5. What distinction does Jesus draw in v.10? What is his reasoning? (Look at Isaiah 6:9-10 to understand Jesus quote)

thoughts. questions. insights.

¹ "a" just means the first half of the verse

Personal Preparation 2 – Listening & Doing

Read Luke 8:16-18

Following from the parable of the sower (and that's important!), Jesus tells the parable of the lamp. Let's have a look at the parable, the explanation and the encouragement/warning.

1. Jesus is talking about a lamp, but what does he say a stupid use for a lamp is, and what's the good use? (v.16)
2. How would you summarise (not interpret!) Jesus explanation in v.17?
3. v.17 seems like a strange explanation for the parable, but in v.18 we get a better understanding of what he's getting at. What does Jesus say the point of his parable is? How does that help us to understand his comments in v.17?
4. With what you came up with, who would you say the lamp represents? Why?

Read Luke 8:19-21

The final story in this section is what looks like a bizarre interaction, where it looks like Jesus is just being difficult!

5. What's the situation that's described? (v.19-20)
6. How does Jesus respond to the request? (v.21)
7. Why does Jesus answer in this way? How does this story relate back to the previous 2 stories in this section?

thoughts. questions. insights.

Growth Group Discussion Questions

Read Luke 8:1-21

1. What were the issues raised, question posed, new insights you had as you read Luke 8:1-21 this week?

2. In this section there seems to be a consistent problem people have and that Jesus confronts them with. What hints are there in this section as to what that problem might be? How does this section address it? (Make sure you give verses for both!)

3. How is Luke's introduction to this section (v.1-3) related to the problem raised?

4. Keeping in mind that the Parable of the Sower is spoken to Israel, do you think it's a parable of encouragement or discouragement to them? Why?

5. In the parable of the lampstand (v.16-18), who would you say the lampstand represents? How does this explain Jesus' explanation and encouragement?

6. From Jesus' 3 conclusions (v.15, 18, 21), what connection is he drawing between God's Word, response to God's Word and Jesus himself?

7. Consider what you've understood from this section of Luke, and discuss how you might respond to the following:
 - ⦿ The passage seems to be indicating that people are a particular type of soil...so what's the point? My soil type is already decided...
 - ⦿ In a multi-cultural and tolerant society like Australia, it's OK for each person to have their own opinion on who God is and how we relate to him. You can believe in God, and not necessarily believe everything that Jesus said & did.
 - ⦿ The way I live isn't as important as what I believe.

8. For us who are God's people, what does this passage say about what our lives should look like? Is it evident?

pray.

- Pray that our hearts and minds might be fertile ground for God's Word.
- Pray that upon hearing God's Word, we may have the strength to live it out.

remember.

- Growth Group Trivia Night: 19 Sep.
- No Growth Group next week!