

## **Luke 8:4–18**

### **How Heart-Hearing Exposes the Genuineness of Our Salvation**

*What does how you hear God's Word read and proclaimed tell you about the state of your soul? Pastor leads his family in today's Hopewell @Home passage. In these fifteen verses, we learn that "a good and noble heart" is one that yields to the proclamation of God's Word—having concerns, priorities, and pleasures shaped by it—and that the last day will expose "Christians" who did not have such hearts as self-deceived and perishing.*

**(Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors in the auto-transcription below. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))**

Luke chapter 8 beginning in verse 4 and going through verse 18. And when a great multitude had gathered and they had come to him from every city he spoke by a parable. A sower went out to sow his seed and as he sowed some fell by the wayside and it was trampled down and the birds of the air devoured it some fell on rock and as soon as it sprang up.

It withered away because it lacked moisture. Some fell among thorns. And the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground sprang up and yielded a crop a hundredfold. When he had said these things he cried. He who has ears to hear. Let him hear.

Then his disciples asked him saying what does this parable mean? And he said to you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God. But to the rest it is given in parables that seeing they may not see. And hearing they may not understand. Now, the parable is this the seed is the word of God.

Those by the wayside are the ones who hear and then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts unless they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who when they hear receive the word with joy. These have no root who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

Now the ones that fell among thorns. Are those who when they have heard go out and are choked with cares riches and pleasures of life. And bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who have received the word with a noble and good heart.

Keep it and bear fruit with patience. No one when he has lit a lamp. Covers it with a vessel. Or puts it under a bed. But sets it on a lampstand. That those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret, that will not be revealed. Nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.

Therefore take heed. How you hear. For whoever has to him more will be given. And whoever does not have even what he seems to have. Will be taken. From him. So far the reading of God's inspired and in aren't words. Now, we can see the main point of these passages and this extended passage in verse 8.

And in. Verse 18. Verse 8, the Lord Jesus says, he who has ears to hear let him hear. Verse 18 says therefore take heed how you hear? Because the point is that just getting to hear God's word read and taught and proclaimed does not necessarily save us. When the disciples ask Jesus about what the parable means he says to you, it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, which does not seem to be working at the time.

Because they had to ask him what it meant they didn't understand. And yet the Lord explained to them and he has given us his Holy Spirit to give us understanding Paul tells us in 1st Corinthians and God works with His word by his spirit to give us understanding and what does that understanding look like?

Well, it looks first of all. Like receiving and accepting the word of God. The devil would like for us to resist what we hear. And that's the rocky soil he tells us those by the wayside sorry not the rocky soil but no soil at all. Those by the wayside are those who hear and then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts.

So they hear when they think about it, but what does this taking the word out of their hearts mean it means they don't believe it and they are not saved. And so the devil wants you to listen to preaching as a sermon critic as someone who measures it against what you already.

Believe and if the preacher or especially it's the Bible and the preacher from the Bible says something that is different with or contradicts that you believe you just card what the preacher says. And you listen as a critic. So that is the devil coming and taking away from your heart that you should believe and be saved and so first thing about listening to preaching well listening to the Bible well is to be willing to be corrected instructed that you wouldn't listen as a critic the second thing is to take the word as shaping what you think and do this is this is similar but there are those who they agree.

Mentally superficially but then how they think and live doesn't ever really change. The heart in the scripture is the control center of the mind and the feelings and the choices the life and he says here that the the ones who hear receive the word with joy, but these have no root it doesn't take root in the heart the Bible needs to take root in your heart, it needs to shape how you think and how you feel and the choices that you make your desires your motivations your values.

And so this is a second thing about how we hear the Bible well and how we hear Bible preaching well not only that we hear it in an attitude of submission at the time and give mental agreement and change what we agree with if the Bible is

correcting our ideas, but also that we would meditate upon the word of God and think about how we ourselves need to be changed by it.

And this is necessary it needs to take root because there are other things in our hearts that we should especially be have having corrected by the Bible notice the cares the riches and the pleasures of life so that which we are concerned about that we would be concerned not about what we will eat or drink or what we will wear, but especially that we would be concerned about the things of the Lord the honor of God.

And.Were belonging to him his work in our life our pleasing him that the Bible needs to especially correct and shape what we value what is it that we desire people desire richest they desire the things of this life, so not just what we care about but what we desire and what we work for and what we are spending ourselves on that we would be spending ourselves, especially on the honor of God and belonging to him.

And the work that he is doing in our self our family our church the places where he has given us roles and responsibilities and then the pleasures of life what we enjoy that we would not enjoy sin that we would not enjoy merely amusing ourselves, this is something I think our family could really grow in and I myself and the one on him that responsibility most laws.

And because if the Bible isn't shaping what we are concerned about what we are working hard at and what we enjoy verse 14 says that we'll bring no fruit to maturity so to hear the Bible in the way that God has designed by the working of His Spirit in us to actually save us we need to a be in submission to what we hear having our ideas corrected be taking it into the taking having it take root in our hearts and shape the,Control center of our life, especially when it comes to what we are concerned about and what we are spending ourselves on and working toward and what we enjoy and this kind of a heart is what verse 15 calls a noble and good heart.

You know, the southerners have the same bless her heart and it is this kind of fake and abused way of talking about someone that the most of the rest of the world says things like oh he sure has a good heart she sure has a good heart well the one that it's most important to have say that about you is the one who looks not on the outward appearance, but actually knows our hearts.

God is greater than our hearts our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately what,The kid and so we might think if only there was some place in the Bible that could tell me about what God says is a good and noble heart right and it's the differences between Saul and David Saul wasn't sin or David wasn't sinless was he sometimes we read about what David did and we say,How can they say some man after God's own art and God look if not on the outward appearance, but upon the heart.

And the reason is especially the response to his words you see that was in the rejection of God's word and God's commandment that God said of Saul that he did not have a heart after God and it was in the response to God's word both positively his delight being in God's word.

David's light being God's word and then when he sinned and the prophet comes and he says, you are the man being correctible by that sense of God says a good and noble heart is one that hears his word the way we've been talking about here, so even how you are listening to me right now and how you pay attention while we read and how you pay attention during the the preaching at the prayer meeting or the Lord's day afternoon and especially in the public worship and the holy assembly is key to having a good and noble heart before God.

And that is what he's talking about still when he talks about not putting the lamp under a vessel or a bed hide it under a bushel, no. I'm gonna let it sign this little light of God's. Because yes in Matthew 5 he talks about letting our light shine before men, but most places where he uses this metaphor he's actually talking about how we use and respond to the word of God that we put it up and why wouldn't people why don't people want it to shine on them because they don't want to be exposed but just like in Hebrews 4 verse 12, we're talks about the living the Word of God being living an active and exposing discerning the thoughts and intentions of our hearts, it says therefore we are all laid bare before.

God. He already sees what we are like and again here he says for nothing his secret that will not be revealed nor anything that will not nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light in the verse 17, so what he's talking about here is not letting our light shine before men, it's letting God's light expose us now.

So that our secrets and our wrong ideas and our wrong behaviors will be exposed and corrected and will have the benefit of the light that he gives us now in hearing his word before the time comes when we're exposed and there's no opportunity for repentance then. He says in verse 18 that this is especially a warning for us.

Because there are those who seem to have something before God. There are those who think that they have something of. For God and they don't. And it is especially in how we hear. His word and respond to it that we can find out whether it's an imagination of ours that we are saved or whether that we are really saved.

And he says, he who has to him more will be given. And we can see that this is directly related to what he's been saying because verse 18 says therefore take heed how you hear four, whoever has etcetera. So when he says him who has or he who has his talking about those who are receiving and responding to the word of God the way that we've been hearing about in the preceding passages and when he says he who he who does not have even what he thinks he has will be taken from him he's talking about people who are in the church and people who hear good biblical preaching and people who even sometimes agree with what they hear and people who, Even enjoy hearing the good biblical preaching but they don't allow

their ideas to be corrected their life to be shaped what they work at to be formed what they value and desire to be formed what they care about to be formed.

They don't have what God calls here the good and noble heart the word shaped heart the word controlled life. He says if you think you are saved. And you don't have a Bible controlled life that is continuously being shaped by what you hear from his word. Then you're thinking that you're saved is a delusion and what you think you have will be taken from you.

That's a dreadful warning, isn't it? Especially when we think about the number of people even in the supposedly faithful churches. That would be described by that. Description. My dear children. Who my greatest concerns in life is that you would not be one of those. But that you would be one of those that not only is the word entering your ears, but the Holy Spirit is applying it to your heart and working in you that genuine saving faith that produces a word shaped life so that you will be those who have and even more will be given to you and that having had your life lit up and exposed and shaped by the word of God that when you come on the last day and all the secrets are revealed you will be one in whom the Lord has done genuine work and that.

Is what will be revealed. So let us whether it's during the family worship or when you read the Bible in your private times or whether in one of the many times that we hear. His word read and proclaimed publicly. Let us take heed how we hear. Let's pray. Our father in heaven we thank you for this portion of your word, we thank you for how clear it is from the illustrations we pray.

Lord that we would not just be those who enjoy a good illustration and enjoy a good clear explanation, but Lord make us those. Into whom your word enters and take root takes root and shapes the most fundamental and central aspects of who we are so that we may know that when we cling to Christ it is not some superficial temporary thing but the work of your Holy Spirit who is shaping our entire lives by that same word.

We pray Lord for those whom we love who hear your word. That this would be true for them as well. Thank you for your mercy. Thank you for your power and especially that which you work by your word make us fruitful from it we pray. We ask it in Jesus' name.

Amen.