

The Battle For Your Ears

Luke 8:4-15 ▪ Sunday, June 22, 2025 ▪ Nick Braito

A Warning: Ways the Battle is _____. (vv. 5-7;11-14)

Our Challenge: How the Battle is _____. (vv. 8:8,15)

An Encouragement: Confidence in God's _____ and _____. (vv. 8, 10, 15)

Luke 8:4-15

⁴ And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as

for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: How would you assess your ability and experience in gardening? What do you like to grow?

Read & Discuss: Luke 8:4-15

1. In verses 5-8 Jesus describes four types of soil. In your own words, how would you summarize each type of soil and the result?
2. Jesus warns that the Word of God can be snatched away (vv. 5, 11), become withered (vv. 6, 13), or choked out (vv. 7, 14) so that it does not bear fruit in our lives. What are some common distractions, temptations, or struggles that prevent people from absorbing and applying God's Word? What are some of the greatest challenges you personally face in truly listening to and retaining God's Word?
3. Jesus describes the "good soil" as those who hear the Word, hold onto it, and bear fruit (vv. 8, 15). What practical steps can we take to cultivate a heart that is receptive to and holds fast to the truths and promises of God's Word? What sort of "fruit" might we "bear" when we do this?
4. We are called here to have receptive hearts and bear fruit, but we don't do this alone. How does the Holy Spirit help prepare our hearts to receive and respond to God's Word? What are some ways we can cooperate with the Spirit in this process?
5. In verse 8, Jesus said to those who heard Him, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." What did Jesus mean by this? How does this contrast with our modern "entertain me" culture, and what should we do about this?
6. Verse 4 says a "great crowd" was gathered around Jesus as He told this parable. Why might Jesus have told this parable soon after attracting a crowd? What do you think Jesus was aiming to do by teaching through parables rather than direct statements (vv. 8-10)?
7. How might this parable encourage us to speak and share the Gospel when we feel inadequate? How does this parable help us to process feelings of rejection that we might face when we do share the Gospel? How does this encourage us to pray for people after we've shared the Gospel with them?

Apply: What is one specific action you will take to ensure God's Word is bearing fruit in your life?

Pray: Pray God would grant us hearts that are receptive to and hold fast to His Word—and for lives that bear much fruit as a result.