

Good Ground: An Honest & Good Heart

Background scripture: Luke 8:1-15; Acts 9; Luke 7

1. Luke 8:4, and when much people were gathered together... I'm wondering did he decide to give the parable of the sower because he was led by the Spirit or because of what he saw in the multitude.
 - a. To find this out, we must look back at the preceding verses.
 - b. Luke 8:1, and it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village preaching and teaching glad tidings of the kingdom of God.
 - c. When it says every city, a city had to have so many people to be referred to as a city.
 - d. Some places that were villages could have had two or three houses.
2. It said Jesus preached glad tidings of the kingdom of God.
 - a. I hope when you leave here you will have joy and glad tidings.
 - b. It's not good for you all to leave in tears and upset over what I said.
 - c. This happens in some of your churches.
 - d. What is happening is the preacher is allowing all his frustrations and anger come out over the pulpit.
 - e. We have to learn how to give our frustrations and disappointments over to the Lord in prayer.
 - f. If we do not, when we get up it will come out over the pulpit.
3. Luke 8:2, and certain women...
 - a. Why did the writer choose to name Mary Magdalene?
 - b. He chose Mary because she showed up at the tomb when Jesus rose from the grave.
 - c. Luke 8:3, and many others which ministered unto him of their substance.
 - d. This is where the male ministers need to be careful because this is where he stubs his toe.
 - e. He has to watch his ego.
 - f. These women took care of Jesus.
 - g. It's up to the preacher to give God the glory or he will blow out to sea.
4. We have all these women following Jesus.
 - a. At the cross, there were lots of women around the cross crying for him.
 - b. It could be the "idea of your popularity" that throws you off... you really have to watch it.
 - c. The women fed him and took care of him.
5. There were at least two occasions where women anointed his feet.
 - a. How did he handle this?
 - b. If this type of attention comes to you and you don't know how to handle it, you will blow things sky high.
 - c. When the woman comes to Simon's house, she didn't use oil. She used her tears and hair to wash his feet.
 - d. What would have happened to you if that happened? How would you have handled it?
 - e. We need to consider those things (marriage, children, ministry, anointing) that are of value to us.
6. We need to see that this is the only way to make it to Heaven.
 - a. If I'm a pastor or minister, there is no other way to make it into Heaven other than being a pastor or minister.
 - b. The only way for me to make it is by being a bishop.
 - c. Somehow, we have to do what Revelation says, 'repent and do our first works over.' (Rev 2:5)
 - d. Most people are not thinking about this.
 - e. You can love everybody, but the only way they will make it into Heaven is by doing what they have been called to do.
7. What are you doing to do?

- a. You can't change the name of your church and start preaching another gospel.
 - b. He that takes a hold of the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom. (Luke 9:62)
 - c. You have to have your ticket. There are different types of tickets.
8. In another account, a woman anointed Jesus' head and the disciples didn't like it. (Mark 14:3-11)
- a. They were probably jealous.
 - b. They said the oil was too expensive.
 - c. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. (Song 8:6)
 - d. We have to watch it when a man has something to say about another man.
9. When Jesus went around to the cities and villages, people were always giving.
- a. You want this (people giving to your ministry).
 - b. They gave because he had a good and honest heart.
 - c. There have been preachers on TV and all they tell people is to send money.
 - d. They don't promise them anything and the people will send it anyway.
10. In this parable, you have four (4) categories that describe all who hear.
- a. You are in one of these categories.
 - b. Keep in mind as we read, the seed is the word of God.
11. Luke 8:4-8, afterward he explained what these verses meant to the disciples.
- a. V10, everyone is not going to make it to the Kingdom of God.
 - b. Satan deceives people and they are happy not to be in the Kingdom of God.
 - c. They say there are too many don'ts and not enough do's.
 - d. Luke 8:11-12, those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and take the word out of their hearts.
 - e. Evil spirits have a way of making you forget the good things and remember the bad things.
12. Dr. White read through v12-14.
13. V15, a good and honest heart...
- a. An honest and good heart describes the soul.
 - b. This is your personality, character, and disposition.
 - c. An honest and good heart means you're not one we have to watch because you lie and will steal the toilet paper off the roll.
 - d. An honest and good heart is one who thinks of the word more than himself.
14. Jesus having an honest and good heart didn't handle the money.
- a. They should have chose Matthew because he was a tax collector.
 - b. The Spirit had them choose Judas so that scripture might be fulfilled.
 - c. He didn't choose Matthew because he had an honest and good heart.
 - d. Judas didn't have an honest and good heart.
15. The Holy Ghost has to work long and hard to change us after we're filled.
- a. He has to work on your heart to change your attitude and your ways.
 - b. We have to learn Christ. Some people never learn Christ.
16. Then cometh the devil...
- a. Before you reach the parking lot we go to checking these cell phones and texting.
 - b. You sit in here and hear the good stuff (gospel) and then you go to texting.
 - c. We have to tell you to turn off your cell phones.
 - d. This texting will get you into a lot of trouble. It's not always what you say, but it's how you say it.
17. At the Pool of Bethesda, we close service on Tuesday at 10 pm.
- a. You don't need to keep these people until midnight. You don't have an anointing to keep them until midnight.
 - b. Like at your church, they come to me asking if the young people can study during Tuesday night bible study.

- c. Not Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, but only on Tuesday.
 - d. Studies prove the best time for a child to study is as soon as they get home from school.
 - e. When I have allowed them to have a study hall, they sit back there talking and playing.
 - f. The devil is busy.
18. This is why people don't get saved. They can't keep the word in their minds.
- a. He takes it out their mind as they are hearing it.
 - b. This is the kind of man they are.
 - c. The kind of boy or girl you are now will determine the type of man or woman you eventually become.
 - d. This is the way you are. The Holy Spirit is trying to change you.
 - e. If Satan is always taking the word out of your mind, you are never going to be more.
19. Some things we need to change or it will destroy your life and ministry.
- a. The Spirit starts immediately on changing certain things about you.
 - b. When the Spirit comes in we are delivered from sin.
 - c. He delivers you from Sin and forgives you from your sins – deeds and acts of our past.
20. Depending on how we open our heart will determine how deep the Holy Spirit will come in.
- a. Paul is our primary example. If Paul had a woman problem, he would have written about it.
 - b. He tells us everything about him.
 - c. His problem was religion and he was into it. He was Pharisee of the Pharisees. He was Hebrew of the Hebrews.
 - d. What's your thing?
 - e. When Paul met God, it was a three (3) day experience. He was struck with blindness and fasted three (3) days.
 - f. They laid hands on him and the scales fell from his eyes and he was filled. (Acts 9)
21. When the scales fell off, Paul opened the door of his heart and soul so wide he never fought or struggled with the sins of his past.
- a. We study Spiritual Man on Tuesdays because the fight is in your soul.
 - b. Paul never had a problem with looking back.
 - c. At the time he was filled, his spirit and soul was filled.
 - d. A breakthrough in prayer is crucial.
 - e. If you get a breakthrough try to come back the next day.
22. Immediately, Paul gets his whole package from the start of what his ministry is going to be like.
- a. Paul said he was born out of due time. He wanted to walk with Jesus.
 - b. Even if we had walked with Jesus, we would still do what we're doing.
 - c. We need to pray deeper in the Spirit.
 - d. Our inner life is tied up with the cares of this life.
23. From the start, God tells Paul what his spiritual life will be like. (Acts 9:15-16)
- a. The Spirit exposed all the corners of his heart what he would suffer.
 - b. I don't know what I would have done if God showed me all my suffering in the beginning.
 - c. I would have said, Oh no!!
24. Before Paul reached Damascus, he had the kind of a heart God was looking for.
- a. He had to choose someone who wouldn't go back and forth. This is why he was so stern with John Mark.
25. You can't be someone who gets weary easily.
- a. What kind of heart do you have that you get weary so quickly?
 - b. God is searching the heart of the weeping prophet because when their ship comes in they will go back to the world.
 - c. Don't go back. Go forth, but don't go back.
26. They that are on the rocks...
- a. They get saved and tell everybody.

- b. There is no root so they are easily blown away.
 - c. These saints are easily offended and thrown off course. We say how long will she last this time?
 - d. They bring in people. They can sometimes reach people you can't pull back into the church.
 - e. It may be something you said to them.
27. We must abandon the love of the world we had when we first came.
- a. What was your spiritual experience?
 - b. Did you have a deep or shallow spiritual experience?
 - c. It was a deep experience if it opened you heart wide.