



TAKE CARE HOW YOU HEAR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LUKE 8:1-21

1 **In Luke 8, Jesus tells a parable that explains how essential a right response to His word is in the life of His followers.** Read through Psalm 1 aloud as a group. What do you notice about the heart of the “blessed man”? What does he avoid and what does he pursue? What role does the word of God play in the blessedness of this man?


 *In what ways are people tempted to sidestep or short circuit this essential aspect of responding to God's Word in the process of following Jesus?*

 *Which of those temptations do you find yourself most tempted towards?*

 *What specific ways could we incorporate the approach found in this Psalm into our spiritual life? What would it look like to pursue growth in your hearing and doing of God's word*

2 **When it comes to truly following Jesus, how we hear and do His word reveals the true condition of our hearts as His followers.** What does that statement mean? How have you seen the connection of response to His word and following Him?

 *What can are some indicators in the heart that arise from a persons response to God's word? Think positively and negatively. What might be encouraging and discouraging?*

 *As you consider your own heart's condition as it pertains to how you hear and do God's word, what encourages you or discourages you? How can your group pray for you?*


3 **Take some time to think about why Luke would include a specific section to highlight the women followers of Jesus.** What observations do you have about the women found in Luke 8? Look up the following: Luke 23:49, 55; 24:10; Acts 1:14

4 Take some time to think about the soils in Jesus' parable and identify manifestations of them in your life.


The Hard Soil - What are some ways that you have allowed the devil to steal the word from your life?


The Rocky Soil - How have you allowed life's trials to impact your pursuit of God?

The Soil with Weeds - Can you identify ways that this life's cares, riches, or pleasures are threatening to choke out the growth of God's word?


 *Meditate on the following questions and discuss how you can specifically you can pray for each other in light of them. "How am I responding to God's word? Is my heart like shallow ground, or am I deeply rooted in the grace of God? Are pain and pleasure distracting me from the work that God wants to do in my life? Am I doing anything to help people hear the gospel, like the worthy women who supported Jesus in his public ministry? What is the real condition of my heart?"*

5 Take an audit of your "distractedness." How much of what Jesus calls "weeds" in this parable are choking out the word of God in your heart? Think of times when your brain feels fried. When concentration is difficult, and distraction feels easy. Think of where your mind goes when you sit down to read God's word or pray or listen to a sermon.

 *John Bloom says, "When we are regularly distracted by something, we need to take note. Our attention often runs to what's important to us. So, distraction can reveal what we love." If you are able, honestly share with your group what your distractions are revealing that you love.*

 *Read Luke 10:38-42. If you were in that room that day with Jesus, Martha and Mary, where would you have been? How would Jesus encourage you or correct you?*

 *How can someone live amidst the demands and pressures of everyday life and still grow spiritually?*

 *How can you pursue the responses of the good soil in this text? What are some practical steps you can take to prioritize your relationship with God?*