**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Lk. 8:8**

**Focal Truth: Hearing God’s word comes from spiritual understanding**

Why did Jesus tell stories?

Have you ever really thought about the stories of Jesus?

Did you know that the parables of Jesus are the stories of Jesus?

**Luke highlights the everyday stories of Jesus – largest number of stories of all gospels = 24**

* As he travels preaching and teaching Gods Word he shared **everyday stories with everyday people about spiritual truth**
* Parable = thrown alongside – **a parable is an everyday story teaching spiritual truth**
* Jesus told everyday stories **to explain spiritual truths**
* Jesus told everyday stories **to awaken people to pay attention to spiritual truths**

 **Luke 8:1 –** *He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming &*

 *preaching the kingdom of God*

 **Luke 8:4 –** *When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were*

 *journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable*

**Observations**

1. **Hear the story of the Sower 8: 5 – 8**
2. The Sower sowed seed – everywhere, generously he sowed seed
3. Some seed fell **by the roadway** – it was trampled underfoot & the birds ate it
4. Some seed fell **on rocky soil** – it grew up but withered away – it had no moisture
5. Some seed fell **on the thorns** – the thorns choked out the growing seeds
6. Some seed fell **into the good soil** – it grew up and produced a crop 100 times as great

**Jesus said as he told stories: *He who has ears to hear, let him hear***

1. **Understand the story of the Sower 8:9 – 15**
2. The purpose of everyday stories reveals who really understands spiritual truth

 9 -10

* Followers of Jesus understand spiritual truth
* Jesus stories help unbelievers to understand spiritual truth
* Jesus stories keep other unbelievers from understanding spiritual truth

*To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand* – 8:10

*When they look, they won’t really see, when they hear, they won’t understand*

NLT

*You will keep on hearing, but will not understand, you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive – Acts 28:26*

1. The **seed is the word of God** 8:11
2. **The roadside hearer**; hears God’s word & the devil takes away the word & they will not believe and be saved 8:12
3. **The rocky soil hearer**; hears & receives the word with joy, no roots – they believe for a while, in times of temptation they fall away
4. **The thorny ground hearer**; hear but the worries, riches & pleasures of life chokes the seed there is no growth or maturity
5. **The good soil hearer**; heard the word with an honest & good heart – they remember it & grow with endurance

**Consider**

1. The word of God is the seed that gives life & growth to everyone who hears & believes it
2. Those without Christ are blinded in their mind by the devil from hearing & understanding God’s Word
3. Some who hear God’s word love God’s word as something new but they lose interest over time & move on to other interests
4. Some who hear God’s word can’t hear or understand God’ word because they are struggling with life worries, cares, riches & pleasures – they have no time for God’s word
5. Some who hear God’s word hear it, receive it, accept it, believe & live by it enduring all of life’s troubles
6. **Remember your condition of hearing God’s word changes it is not always the same!**
7. **Things to Remember & Do 8:15**
8. Prepare your heart to receive God’s word – good soil is plowed – tilled soil
9. Accept God’s word with honesty – sincerity as you hear it
10. Think deeply about God’s word put it in your mind with humility
11. Live with endurance by God’s word in all the daily trials of life

James 1: 21,25 – *therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls…but the one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*

***He who has ears to hear, let him hear!***

**But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance – 8:15**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**