

Sermon Outline

Harvest of the Heart

Luke 8:4-15

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus is moving about Israel, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. While many believe his message and become his disciples, some do not. Why is it that some hear and don't believe? Why is it that some say they believe but their profession doesn't stand up to the tests of life? A crowd had gathered, but a crowd is not a congregation. Jesus knew this and taught them the answer: the harvest of the heart.

I. *The Purpose of the Parables* – Luke 8:9-10

- A. Clarity to the Disciple
- B. Obscurity to the Disbelieving

II. *The Sower and His Seed* – Luke 8:12

- A. God has always sought for a fruitful harvest from the people he planted - Psalm 80:8-11; Isaiah 5; 61:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9
 - Finding none, he does not hesitate to keep plowing – Matthew 21:43; John 15:1-2
 - Finding it, he prunes for a greater harvest
- B. He Sows the Seed of His Word
 - 1. The Scriptures – Isaiah 55:8 ff
 - 2. The Christ – John 12:24 ff
 - Psalm 126 – the tears of the sower

III. *The Hearers and their Hearts*

- A. **Hardened** – Luke 8:5, 12
 - Sown and then plowed; the path between the rows
- B. **Shallow** – Luke 8:6, 13
 - There are seasons with little moisture and high heat.
 - “Christians are like tea bags: you only know what’s in them when you put them in hot water.”
- C. **Entangled** – Luke 8:7, 14
 - “I love you, too, but tell me more about...”
 - 1. *Merimna* – Anxiousness
 - 2. *Ploutos* – Riches
 - 3. *Hedone* - Pleasures
 - The “almost Christian” – Thieliicke
- D. **Honest and Good** – Luke 8:8, 15
 - *Only God makes the fallen heart fruitful*
 - 1. “Hold fast”
 - 2. “Bearing Up”
 - Persevering Faith is part and parcel of saving faith
 - Two Episodes of those who hear and those who don't
 - Luke 8:19-21 – this is my family.
 - Luke 8:22 ff - “Let us go to the other side...Master, we are perishing!”

“Where is your faith?” – Luke 8:25

Let us trust the One who has sown his life in tears for our salvation.