

The Seed of the Kingdom of God

Luke 8:1-15

Key Verse: 8:15

"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

1. Read verse 1. To what does "After this" refer? Where did Jesus go and what did he do? What is the good news of the kingdom of God? Why did Jesus focus on the message of the kingdom of God? (4:18; 11:2; Mk 1:15)

2. Read verses 1b-3. Who traveled around with Jesus? What grace had these women received from Jesus? How did they express their love for Jesus and serve him and the Twelve? In what sense were all those who followed Jesus disciples?

3. Read verses 4-8a. How did Jesus see the crowd that gathered? What parable did Jesus tell them? Who does the farmer represent? What are the 4 different soils into which the seed fell? What happened to the seed in each of the soils? How was the 4th soil different?

4. Read verses 8b-10. What does it mean to have ears to hear? When the disciples asked a question how did Jesus answer? (9-10a) Why is asking good? What privilege does Jesus give disciples? Why only to disciples?(Compare Jn 6:66-68) How was the prophesy of Isaiah 6:9 fulfilled in Jesus' day? Why continue to teach? (Isa 6:13b)

5. Look at Jesus' explanation of the parable. What is the seed? What the soils represent? What kind of heart soil does the path represent? (11-12) What happens to the seed that falls on this heart soil? Why must the seed be planted deep? What kind of persons does this represent?

6. What kind of heart is the rocky soil? (13) What happens to the seed that falls here? What are some times of testing? What kind of person might this represent? What happens to the seed that falls among thorns? What are the thorns that choke out the growing seed? (14)

7. What do the first three kinds of heart soil have in common? What is the good soil? (15) How is it different? How can we have good heart soil? How does the kingdom of God grow within us