

The Parable of the Sower

In Luke 8:4-21, we have three instances in which Jesus teaches on the importance of 'hearing' the word of God (See 8:10f, 18, and 21). We must, in the words of verse eighteen, "take care how we hear".

1. The reason for parables
 - a. A prompt for deeper reflection
 - b. A means of distinguishing between people
 - c. An invitation to "hear" *Isaiah 6:9*

2. Four types of hearing
 - a. The hardened listener
 - i. The word falls "along"
 - ii. The devil takes it away
 - b. The shallow listener
 - i. The word falls "on"
 - ii. Difficult times drive it away
 - c. The divided listener
 - i. The word falls "amid"
 - ii. The word is choked out
 - d. The sincere listener
 - i. The word falls "into"
 - ii. It is held fast and produces fruit

Application:

1. Have you heard the word of God?
2. How have you heard?
3. Does your life bear the fruit Christ desires?