



Luke 8:4- 15 (NIV)

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.”

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 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.



SERMON NOTES

Word Power

The Word of God hidden in the heart is a stubborn voice to suppress.

– Billy Graham

The Bible understands **Human Unrest**

“The Bible seeks to catch our lives up in a grand adventure, a great saga of God’s dealing with humanity – a saga begun in God’s journey with Israel, continued in the surprising call of God even unto Gentiles. The church is the product of that story.” – Willimon

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? **Ecclesiastes 1**

Then we will no longer be infants, **tossed** back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Ephesians 4:14

The Bible reveals **Human RESPONSIBILITY**

“The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not **mature**.” Luke 8:14

The Bible points to **JESUS**

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:7

[Jesus] is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:28-29

“How can a young person live a good life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I’m single-minded in pursuit of you; don’t let me miss the road signs you’ve posted.” Psalm 119:9-11 (msg)

This is what the LORD says: “Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and **walk in it**, and you will find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you** all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

¹⁶ Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Colossians 3:16 (CEV)

But what happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Galatians 5:22-23 (Msg)

Faith is what drives you into the future.

Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Proverbs 2:9-11

SACRED JOURNEY

10 SIGNS REASONS TO READ YOUR BIBLE

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? After all, sleeping is better than reading, right? Before you close the book on God’s book, here are 10 reasons to read the Bible:

- 1. Reading the Bible shows us God’s character.** The Bible is our definitive source for the answers to our questions about God. Hebrews 1:1-3
- 2. Reading the Bible teaches us to imitate God.** Ephesians 5:1
- 3. Reading the Bible helps us discover our next step.** Psalm 119:105
- 4. Reading the Bible keeps us from sin.** Psalm 119:11
- 5. Reading the Bible helps us to renew our minds so we can know God’s will.** Romans 12:1-2
- 6. Reading the Bible allows us to be certain of what God said. The Bible is our final authority.** John 17:17
- 7. Reading the Bible allows us to receive the desires of our heart.** John 15:7
- 8. Reading the Bible is how we learn about the gospel.** John 5:39-40
- 9. Reading the Bible gives us courage.** Joshua 1:8-9
- 10. Reading the Bible helps us to be fruitful.** Psalm 1:2-3