



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH



HEART

CHECK

WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

PART 1:

A HEART TOO HARD TO HEAR

LUKE 8:4-11

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Luke 8:4-12

4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; **and it was trampled down**, and the birds of the air devoured it.

Luke 8:4-12

6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Luke 8:4-12

9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

Luke 8:4-12

11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

THE QUESTION BEHIND THE PARABLE

Why can people hear the same Word and respond so differently?

Jesus answers with a farmer, seed, and four kinds of soil.

The issue is not merely whether we hear — but HOW we hear.

“Take heed how you hear.” — Luke 8:18

SAME SOWER. SAME SEED.

The Sower goes out to sow.

The Seed remains the same.

The condition of the soil changes — and
therefore the results change.

**Same Sower • Same Seed • Different Soil • Different
Results**

THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

**“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of
God.”
— Luke 8:11**

THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH THE SEED

God's Word is not deficient.

The Word does not need to be made more powerful.

Before blaming the Seed, we must examine the soil receiving it.

HEART CHECK: What kind of heart am I bringing to the Word?

JESUS' WARNING TO EVERY HEARER

**“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”
— Luke 8:8**

Matthew 13:15-17

For the hearts of this people have **grown dull**.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes **they have closed**,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with
their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and
turn,
So that I should heal them.'

JESUS' WARNING TO EVERY HEARER

- “Hearing” is more than auditory reception
- In Scripture, “hearing” frequently carries the idea of listening receptively and responding appropriately.
- Jesus is calling for more than information entering the ear.
- **He wants truth to penetrate the heart.**

01

THE CONDITION — A HARDENED HEART

“Some fell by the wayside; **and it was trampled down...**” — Luke 8:5

THE WAYSIDE

The wayside was repeatedly traveled and compressed.

Soil capable of receiving seed became packed and resistant.

Luke's detail matters: it was “trampled down.”

Repeated traffic can turn receptive soil into hardened ground.

HEARTS CAN BECOME HARD THROUGH REPEATED TRAFFIC

- Repeated rejection.
- Repeated disobedience.
- Repeated sin without repentance.

Hardness is often a PROCESS.

1. Repeated Rejection → Hardness

- Proverbs 29:1 — “He who is often rebuked, **and hardens his neck**, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”
- The person receives correction repeatedly (“often rebuked”) but continues hardening himself.

1. Repeated Rejection → Hardness

- Zechariah 7:11–12 — Israel “refused to heed,” “shrugged their shoulders,” “stopped their ears,” and “made their hearts like flint.”
- Acts 7:51 — Stephen tells his hearers, “You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”
- Repeatedly saying “No” to God can make the next “No” easier.

2. Repeated Disobedience → Hardness

- Hebrews 3:7–8 — “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”
- Notice the connection: hearing God's voice + refusing to obey = hardening.
- Hebrews 3:15–16 — Again, “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

2. Repeated Disobedience → Hardness

- Nehemiah 9:16–17 — Israel “acted proudly, hardened their necks, and did not heed Your commandments.”
- Every time God says “Go” and I continually say “No,” I’m not merely disobeying—I may be conditioning my heart not to listen.

3. Repeated Sin Without Repentance → Hardness

- Hebrews 3:13 - “Exhort one another daily... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
- Sin tolerated becomes spiritually desensitizing.
- What once convicted us can begin to feel normal.
- Unrepentant patterns can change how we hear God.

ANOTHER FOOTSTEP ACROSS THE SOIL

“Not now.”

“Not that.”

“I’m not changing.”

“That is for somebody else.”

What we repeatedly resist can become easier to resist again.

02

THE EXPOSURE — THE HARD HEART STILL HEARS

Luke 8:12 begins with a sobering statement: “Those by the wayside are the ones who **HEAR...**”

THEY HEAR!

The hard-hearted person may still be regularly exposed to Scripture.

Exposure to truth is not the same as reception of truth.

You can know church language and still resist what God is saying.

Hearing with the ears is not the same as receiving with the heart.

HEARERS OR DOERS?

**“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.”
— James 1:22**

03

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE — PHARAOH

Pharaoh repeatedly heard God's command, saw God's power, experienced consequences — and repeatedly resisted.

THE ENEMY — SATAN WANTS THE SEED

“Then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts...” — Luke 8:12

THE BIRDS REVEAL A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

The crowd saw birds; Jesus revealed the devil.

Satan opposes the reception of the Word.

He wants the Seed to remain on the surface long enough to be taken away.

There is spiritual warfare over the reception of truth.

WHY DOES THE ENEMY WANT THE SEED?

Because the Seed carries God's truth.

Because the Word exposes lies and calls sinners to faith.

Because Satan knows what can happen when the Word penetrates the heart.

The enemy does not want the Word to take root.

THE PROBLEM WAS NOT IGNORANCE

Some of the hardest hearts in Scripture belonged to people who knew Scripture extremely well.

“You search the Scriptures... But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

— John 5:39–40

KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT SURRENDER

They studied Scripture.

They taught Scripture.

They debated Scripture.

Yet many resisted the One to whom Scripture pointed.

The issue was not merely what they knew — but what they were unwilling to receive.

TODAY — DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART

**“Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden
your hearts...”
— Hebrews 3:15**

RESPOND QUICKLY TO CONVICTION

Confess it.

Repent of it.

Correct it.

Obey it.

Do not negotiate with what God has made clear.