

## I. Intro

A. We are in Luke 8 today – let's begin

## II. Text

**A. Luke 8:1-3**

1. Jesus is traveling around Galilee with many followers
  - a) 12 disciples and women as well
  - b) Revolutionary – men and women did not learn together
  - c) Revolutionary – Jesus had male and female disciples (followers)
2. In fact, if we zoom out we see Luke highlighting women everywhere
  - a) Elizabeth, Anna the prophetess, sinful woman from Luke 7, Martha, Mary, Susana, cripple woman of Luke 13, many parables with women
  - b) Women become central to evangelism in Acts 16:14 (Lydia)
3. This isn't new, it follows a pattern throughout the whole Bible
  - a) Women served at the temple [1 Sam 2:22]
  - b) Women were prophets and women were judges [Judges 4:4]
  - c) Women leading worship [Exodus 15:20-21]
  - d) Women financially supported ministry [Luke 8:3, 1 Kg 17:11-13]
  - e) Women exercising spiritual gifts [Acts 2:17-18, Joel 2:28-32]
4. *Why is this important?*
  - a) *The Kingdom has come for all (male, female, jew, gentile, slave, free)*
  - b) *You must understand this before we read the next parable*
  - c) *Jesus is about to teach about seeds, and it isn't for "them" – it is for you*
  - d) *For the poor, the rich, men, women, followers, leaders – everyone*

**B. Luke 8:4-18**

1. Jesus shares 2 parables – seeds and lamp – both contain hidden meaning
2. Seeds – Jesus is the sower, the seed is God's Word, the soil human hearts
  - a) Word is spread to everyone – results depend on your heart
    - (1) Enemy can steal the Word from you
    - (2) Temptation can block the Word from taking root

- (3) Pleasures or cares of this world can choke the Word
- (4) Honesty and goodness is fertile soil for the Word to grow!
- 3. Lamp – uses a different picture to explain the same thing
  - a) The Word produces fruit and shines outward
  - b) Don't hide that light – illuminate the darkness
- 4. Vs 18 – take care how you hear, because of vs 10 and **Isaiah 6:9-10**
  - a) How you hear, results in a blessing or a curse
    - (1) If your heart is good soil, hearing the parable is like music to your ears
    - (2) If your heart is bad soil, the parable leaves you resistant
    - (3) And, even worse, you grow more resistant over time
  - b) Take care, going to church and hearing sermons
    - (1) The more you hear it, the more you are accountable to it
    - (2) If you hear and refuse to obey – your heart grows hard [Acts 28:27]
    - (3) Your stubborn heart grows over time – sometimes He accelerates it
- 5. *Who is this message for? – EVERYONE*
  - a) *Not a single person can escape this parable*
  - b) *Men, women, old, young, single moms, families, pastors – everyone*
  - c) *Take care how you hear*
    - (1) *Obey the Word, let it take root in you*
    - (2) *Let it shine forth and impact those around you*
  - d) *If you the Spirit is convicting you of hardness of heart – cry out*
    - (1) *Isaiah 6:10 says he will heal you!*
    - (2) *What does healing look like?*

**C. Luke 8:19-21**

- 1. Healing looks like adoption – crying out to God results in “brother, sister”
- 2. At this point, Luke pivots from parable to live-action

**D. Luke 8:22-25**

- 1. Luke wants us to connect the parable with the real life
  - a) Disciples heard the Word of God, but did they believe it?

- b) Will they trust God when temptation comes their way?
- 2. Has the seed found good soil or rocky temptation soil?

**E. Luke 8:26-39**

- 1. Again, Luke wants us to connect the parable with real-life
  - a) Man was set free, but what does he do with his freedom?
  - b) He must let the light shine before all men – evangelize!
- 2. *These parables have legs – take shape in the real life of real people*
  - a) *Real people like me and you*
  - b) *Real people like your kids, neighbors, friends, classmates, coworkers*

F. Final story covers two more women, healed by Jesus (Luke 8:40-56)

- 1. We already covered Luke's point at the start
- 2. Jesus has compassion for all. His message is for all.

III. Conclusion

A. *This parable is a live wire, touching it shocks us to the core*

- 1. *It takes shape in real life and produces real transformation*
- 2. *I want to consider, for a moment, just one area of transformation*

B. *I want to read God's Word from **Hebrews 12:28-29***

- 1. *What does it look like for this seed to land on good soil?*
- 2. *What kind of Christian, what kind of church does it produce?*
- 3. *What does it look like for a church to worship with reverence and awe?*

C. *There has been an increase in casual behavior when we gather*

- 1. *But, the issue isn't the behavior*
- 2. *Behavior is a symptom of something else – lack of reverence and awe*
- 3. *A symptom that the Word has not taken root yet*
- 4. *Therefore, consider what it looks like for reverence and awe to take root*

D. *My desire is to cultivate a church culture where casual behavior isn't outlawed, it simply feels out of place*

- 1. *Out of place because there is something greater, more glorious, more wonderful*
- 2. *Out of place because our God is a consuming fire*