

## Receiving the Word of God Luke 8:1-21

Peter Roebbelen  
November 29, 2009



### Evaluating the Listeners

- **Why do some people respond to Jesus and others don't?**
- **Why do some Christians grow more quickly than others?**

**Jesus tells a parable – a short story with a powerful spiritual punch.**

**Why does Jesus explain this parable to his disciples? **Because they** \_\_\_\_\_!**

**The Seed = The Word of God = \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **I. The Soil of Spiritual Resistance**

- **The soil along the path represents people who hear the word but never receive it.**
- **Even Christians willfully resist the word of God at times.**

**What's God saying to you  
that you are resisting?**

#### **II. The Soil of Emotionalism**

- **The rocky soil represents the people who receive the word with joy but soon fall away.**
- **Emotion will not carry us through the tough times.**

### III. The Soil of Worldly Ways

- The thorny soil represents the people whose hearts are receptive but their growth is stunted by life's worries, riches and pleasures.
- The ways of this world often grow faster in our hearts than the word of God.

### IV. The Good Soil

- The good soil represents good people who hear the word of God, retain it and persevere.
- They grow to maturity and produce a good crop.

**Problem:** We seem quite content to grow spiritual saplings but Jesus is looking for mature oaks of righteousness.

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.*

Isaiah 61:3b

Jesus uses another parable (v.16-18) for further clarification – God's word is not to be hidden or hoarded but put into play.

---

**The Final Word: Followers of Jesus are those who hear God's word and put it into practice. (v.21)**

### Things to Think About:

**What are you hearing these days?**

**Are you open to receiving God's word?**

**Identify some of the worldly 'weeds' that are choking your spiritual growth? Are you prepared to pull them out? What kind of help will you need to do this?**

**How can you regularly put yourself in a place of receiving God's word? What will you do if you don't understand His word?**

**Where is God calling you to persevere?**

**Where and how are you resisting God's word?**

**Have you set down roots at *The Sanctuary*? If not, why not? If not here, then where?**

*Will you hear God's word to you;  
will you retain it;  
and will you persevere  
so that in the end  
you produce a good crop?*

---

**Imagine what becoming a mature oak of  
righteousness might look like.**

---

---