



WHAT TO DO WHILE YOUR LIFE IS HAPPENING "Do Some Serious Listening" Luke 8:4-15

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I. The Setting. v. 4

Celebrities attract crowds. Jesus, while neither desiring it or seeking it, had become a celebrity and the crowds pursued Him wherever He went. But not all of His enthusiastic listeners were effectively responding to what He said. So He told a short story to show how important it is that people take seriously what He had to say.

II. The Story. vv. 5-8a

- A. The sower—His intentions.
- B. The seed—its qualities.
- C. The soil—its potential.
 - 1. "Along the path"—trampled and eaten. v. 5
 - 2. "Some fell on rock"—withered, no moisture. v. 6
 - 3. "Fell among thorns"—choked the plants. v. 7
 - 4. "Good soil"—yielded a crop. v. 8a

III. The Significance. vv. 8b-15

- A. The significance of "parables."
 - 1. The serious know the secrets of the kingdom. v. 10a
 - 2. The superficial see and hear but don't understand. v. 10b
 - 3. The significant challenge to check ears. v. 8b
- B. The significance of "seed."
 - 1. "The seed is the word of God." v. 11; See Matthew 13:19
 - 2. "The word planted...can save you." James 1:21
 - 3. "Born again...of imperishable (seed)...the word of God." 1 Peter 1:23
 - 4. "My word...will not return...empty." Isaiah 55:11
- C. The significance of "soil." Note: soil is evaluated by seed.
 - 1. Soil "along the path." v. 12
 - a. "*Diabolos*" takes word from heart.
 - b. So cannot believe and be saved.
 - 2. Shallow soil on rock. v. 13
 - a. Temporary joyful response.
 - b. "*Peirasmos*" leads to withdrawal.
 - 3. Thorny soil. v. 14
 - a. Life's path filled with "worries, riches, pleasures."
 - b. They choke spiritual growth.
 - 4. Good soil. v. 15
 - a. Produces spiritual crop. See 3:8
 - b. Hearing, retaining, persevering.

Points to ponder: Do I hear the word of God or the word of man? What does my life tell me about my faith?