

Understanding Jesus: Careful or Careless

Careful or careless? When it comes to hearing God's word, how would you describe yourself? Are you careful to listen to God's word? The reality is that each of us is responsible for how we listen whether it is a teaching time at church, our Life Group Bible study, or our personal Bible reading. In the passage that we are looking at today, Jesus focuses on this topic of how we hear God's word. May we each grow in our desire to hear for it is those who are careful to hear the word of God who can truly grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.

Opening Discussion: What is one area of your life that you would describe yourself as careful?

Read Luke 8:4-21

1. Jesus first tells the parable of the four soils (vv. 5-15). What is the point that Jesus wants his hearers to get?
2. What is it that makes a person good soil (v. 15)?
3. At the end of the first parable, Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear" (v. 8). What does that mean?
4. In Luke 8:1 we are told that Jesus began to preach the kingdom of God, and in verse 10 He tells the disciples that it has been granted to them to know the mysteries of the kingdom. In other words, Jesus was bringing to light that which had been hidden. How does this relate to the second parable he tells (vv. 16-17)? And what are the implications of this for our ability to hear?

5. Jesus tells us that if we are careful to hear we will be given more and more spiritual insight (v. 18). As you think about this principle, how does it affect your desire to be careful to listen?

6. What is it that makes someone part of Jesus' family (vv. 19-21)?

7. As you think about the main emphasis in the passage we've looked at today and how important it is that we be careful to hear God's word, what type of soil would you say characterizes you right now?

8. Is there anything that is keeping you from hearing God's word?

Steve said:

What's a simple plan for being more careful to hear God's word? In every area of our lives that really matters, we make a plan and try to carry it out. You go to school to prepare for a career; you take music lessons; you join a gym or get a trainer to get in shape. If you really want to hear God's word, you need to make a simple plan.

9. What is a simple plan that would help you be more careful to hear God's word?

Practicing the Rhythms of Rooted this Week

Daily Devotion | Prayer | Repentance | Sacrificial Generosity | Serve the Community | Share Your Story | Worship



Prayer: This week as you come to your personal time in the word, pray that you would have a heart to hear. Ask God for a growing desire to truly hear His word. Invite God to show you anything that is keeping you from hearing His word.