

FOUR KINDS OF HEARING**LUKE 8:4-8****INTRODUCTIONS**

MOST OF US THINK OF HEARING IN TWO WAYS. EITHER WE HEAR WELL OR WE HEAR POORLY.

BUT JESUS IN THIS PARABLE SAYS VERY CLEARLY THAT THERE ARE FOUR VERY DISTINCT WAYS OF HEARING.

NOW, I'M GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS AS HE EXPLAINS THIS PARABLE IN THE ELEVENTH VERSE AND FOLLOWING.

HIS DISCIPLES COME TO HIM AND SAY TO HIM MASTER WE HAVE HEARD THE PARABLE, NOW TELL US WHAT IT MEANS.

JESUS BEGINS TO EXPLAIN THE PARABLE.

FIRST OF ALL, HE SAYS THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD. THAT THE SOWER IS ACTUALLY THE PREACHER OR THE PROCLAIMER, AND THE SOIL IS THOSE PERSONS WHO HEAR THE WORD.

- I. NOW, HE SAY THE FIRST ONE IS THE KIND THAT HEARS AND IT'S LIKE GOING IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.**
 - A. DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY LIKE THAT?**
 - 1. HAVE YOU EVER SAID THAT ABOUT ANYBODY?**
 - 2. YOUR CHILDREN? YOUR HUSBAND? YOUR WIFE?**
 - 3. WE'VE ALL HEARD THAT EXPRESSION.**
 - B. JESUS HERE LIFTS IT TO A NEW SPIRITUAL LEVEL, BECAUSE HE SAYS THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE**

WHO HEAR THE WORD BUT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES THEY DON'T HEAR IT AT ALL.

1. **HE SAYS, IT FALL BY THE WAY SIDE.**
 2. **NOW THE ANCIENT FIELDS HAD PATHS THAT WENT AROUND THEM, AND PATHS THAT ALSO WENT THROUGH THEM.**
 3. **BEING FROM GEORGIA, WHEN I FIRST READ BOUT THE DISCIPLES GOING THROUGH THE FIELDS I IMAGINED THEM TRAMPLING THE FIELDS OF WHEAT.**
 4. **BUT THERE WERE ACTUALLY PATHWAYS THAT WENT THROUGH THE FIELDS SO THAT PASSERSBY COULD GO THEIR DESTINATIONS WITH CIRCUMSCRIBING THE FIELD.**
- C. NOW WHEN THE SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THE SEED NOT ONLY FELL ON GOOD SOIL BUT ALSO ON THE PATHWAY.**
1. **THE PATHWAY WAS BEATEN DOWN, IT WAS TRODDEN DOWN.**
 2. **IT WAS PACKED HARD, AND IT WAS ALMOST LIKE CONCRETE, THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH SEED YOU PUT ON IT, NOTHING WOULD GROW.**
 3. **JESUS WAS SAYING THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HEAR BUT THEY CAN'T REALLY TAKE IT IN.**
 4. **SO, IT'S LIKE GOING IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.**
- D. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH THAT ARE JUST LIKE THE PATHWAY.**
1. **THEY HEAR AND THEY DON'T HEAR.**

2. **WE HAVE A WAY, WHEN WE HEAR THE SERMON, THE WORD OF GOD, THAT THOSE THINGS THAT WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR, WE TUNE OUT.**
 3. **WE LIKE THE JUICY STUFF; WE LIKE THE STUFF THAT MAKES US FEEL FOOD.**
 4. **WE LIKE TO SAY DIDN'T THAT PREACHER SET US ON FIRE TODAY.**
 5. **THERE ARE TIMES THAT THE PREACHER OUGHT TO SET YOU ON FIRE IN ANOTHER WAY.**
 6. **BUT WHEN HE GETS TO THAT PART, WE TUNE IT OUT.**
 7. **WE START LOOKING AROUND THE BUILDING TO SEE WHO'S HERE.**
 8. **WE START PLANNING WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO WHEN CHURCH IS OVER.**
 9. **WE LOOK AT OUR WATCHES; WE TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE TIME, AND WE USE EVERY POSSIBLE ADVANTAGE NOT TO HEAR THE WORD.**
- E. NOW, JESUS GOES ON TO EXPLAIN THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE LIKE THIS ARE LIKE THOSE WHO TO WHOM THE DEVIL HAS COME AND SNATCHED THE WORD FROM THEIR HEARTS.**
1. **NOW, THAT'S A TRAGIC THING, BECAUSE JESUS FOLLOWS IT UP THIS WAY, IF THE WORD IS SNATCHED THEY CAN NOT BE SAVED.**
 2. **SO IT'S DANGEROUS TO HEAR THE WORD AND LET IT FALL BY THE WAY SIDE.**

3. **THE DAY YOU HEAR MY VOICE, THE BIBLE SAY, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.**
4. **AND SO WE COME SUNDAY AFTER SUNDAY, WE HEAR THE WORD, BUT BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE IT, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FILL OUR LIFESTYLES, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T DO WHAT WE WANT IT TO DO, WE PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE WORD.**
5. **BUT I'VE COME THIS DAY AS A WARNING TO YOU, YOU BETTER HEAR GOD'S WORD, AND STOP LETTING IT FALL BY THE WAYSIDE.**
6. **SO JESUS SAYS THE BIRDS COME AND EAT UP THE SEEDS.**
7. **THEY HEARD IT, BUT IT WENT IN ONE EAR AND OUT THE OTHER.**

II. SECONDLY, JESUS SAY HEARING FOR SOME, IS LIKE SEED FALLING ON ROCKY GROUND.

- A. **THE ROCKS WERE COVERED WITH A THIN LAYER OF SOIL, A VENEER OF SOIL.**
 1. **IT LOOKS GOOD, BUT IT WAS JUST A SURFACE OF SOIL, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH WHO LOOK GOOD, SOUND GOOD, BUT THEY ARE SHALLOW.**
 2. **UNDERNEATH THAT THIN LAYER OF SOIL IS A BED OF ROCK.**
 3. **THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR. THEY ACT LIKE THEY WANT TO HEAR, BUT DEEP DOWN, THEY REALLY DON'T WANT TO HEAR.**
 4. **THEY ARE LIKE SOIL ON TOP OF ROCK.**
- B. **SO WHEN THE SOWER COMES ALONG AND SOWS THE SEED, SOME OF IT FALLS ON ROCKY GROUND.**

1. **WELL, THE BIBLE SAYS, THEY TAKE ROOT; THEY SPRING UP WITH JOY; THEY ARE EXCITED FOR A SEASON, AND THEY BELIEVE, THE BIBLE SAYS, FOR A LITTLE WHILE.**
 2. **GOD, DELIVER US FROM THESE KINDS OF HEARERS.**
 3. **THEY HEAR THE WORD; THEY GET EXCITED ABOUT THE WORD. YOU PREACH, AND THEY SHOUT.**
 4. **THEY WAVE THEIR HANDS, THEY SAY AMEN;**
 5. **THEY SAY HALLELUJAH, BUT THEN WHEN THE SUN COMES AND THE HEAT OF THE DAY BEARS DOWN ON THEM, THEY WITHER UP AND DIE.**
- C. THESE ARE THE FOLK THAT JOIN THE CHURCH.**
1. **THEY GET ALL EXCITED, GO TELL EVERYBODY, I'M A MEMBER OF ABYSSINIAN.**
 2. **THEY TELL FOLK, I'M A POSITIVE PERSON NOW.**
 3. **BUT JUST AS SOON AS THE GOING GETS ROUGH; JUST AS SOON AS THEY DON'T SEE HOW THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE IT, THEY WITHER UP AND DIE.**
 4. **THEY FALL AWAY; THEY GO HOME; THEY SIT DOWN; THEY LOOK FOR ANOTHER CHURCH, BUT THEY HAVE WITHERED UP...**
- D. NOW, THERE ARE SOME WHO DON'T LEAVE THE CHURCH IN BODY, THEY ARE JUST WITHERED UP, IN THE CHURCH.**
1. **THEIR JOY HAS WITHERED UP.**
 2. **THEIR PEACE HAS WITHERED UP.**

3. **THEIR UNDERSTANDING HAS WITHERED UP...BECAUSE THEY ARE SHALLOW...SHALLOW...SHALLOW.**
4. **IF WANT TO MAKE IT YOU GOT TO HAVE DEEP ROOTS, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WINDS.**
5. **LET THE WIND BLOW, IF YOU HAVE ROOTS, LET THE WIND BLOW.**
6. **IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW HOT THE SUN GETS, IF YOU GOT DEEP ROOTS, IT WATER DOESN'T COME DOWN, YOU CAN DRAW WATER UP FROM BELOW, IF YOU HAVE DEEP ROOTS.**

III. THERE IS A THIRD KIND OF HEARING. THEY TAKE ROOT. THEY SEND DOWN DEEP ROOTS, THEY SEND UP BEAUTIFUL LEAVES, THEY STAND THE HEART OF THE DAY, BUT THEY HAVE FALLEN AMONG THORNS.

A. GOD, DELIVER US FROM THORNS IN THE CHURCH.

1. **I KNOW THERE ARE SOME THORNS IN THE CHURCH.**
2. **WHEN YOU TELL THEM TO SAY AMEN, THEY TURN THEIR MOUTHS THE OTHER WAY.**

B. A THORN IN THE CHURCH IS ONE WHO WILL NOT COOPERATION.

1. **THEY DON'T NECESSARILY FIGHT, THEY JUST DON'T COOPERATE.**

C. NOW, SOME THORNS HAVE BEAUTIFUL TALENTS AND BEAUTIFUL GIFTS, BUT THEY JUST SIT ON THEM.

1. **THAT'S A THORN IN THE CHURCH.**

2. **WELL, THEY DON'T COME REGULARLY, BUT THEY DO SHOW UP ON SOME SUNDAY MORNINGS AND FOLD THEIR ARMS AND CROSS THEIR LEGS AND DARE ANYBODY TO SAY ANYTHING TO THEM.**
 3. **AND OTHERS WILL GO TO SLEEP AND OR PLAY LIKE THEY ARE ASLEEP.**
 4. **IT'S TIME TO EXPOSE THORNS...**
 5. **BE CAREFUL OF THORNS...**
 6. **DON'T GET TO CLOSE TO THORNS...**
 7. **IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE, THAT THORN WILL STICK YOU AND YOU WON'T SHOUT...WON'T PRAISE...WON'T WITNESS...TESTIFY...SAY AMEN...WON'T HELP THE PREACHER PREACH...MAKE YOU GET MAD OVER NOTHING...**
- D. YOU GOT TO BEWARE OF THE THORNS THAT GROW UP IN THE CHURCH.**
1. **THEY CHOKE OUT.**
 2. **THEY WON'T PRODUCE ANYTHING AND WON'T LET ANYBODY ELSE GROW EITHER.**
- E. THEN YOU MUST BE AWARE THAT THE THORN DOES PROVIDE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SHADOW, AND SOME US CONFUSE SHADOW WITH SHADE.**
1. **WE ALL NEED A LITTLE SHADE EVERY NOW AND THE, BUT WE DON'T NEED SOMEBODY PROVIDING A SHADOW.**
 2. **SOMETIMES BY INNUENDO, BY THE RAISING OF AN EYEBROW, BY THE ASKING OF A STRANGE QUESTION, BUT A CYNICAL STATEMENT OR A NEGATIVE GESTURE, WE**

CAUSE SHADOWS TO FALL OVER OTHER BELIEVERS.

3. **BUT WHEN YOU ARE IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN YOU, YOU ARE NOT IN THE SHADOW BUSINESS... "LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE..."**

IV. WELL, I GOT ONE MORE POINT, IT'S THE FOURTH KIND OF HEARING. JESUS SAID, IT'S LIKE GOOD SOIL. IT'S BEEN PLOWED UP, AND THE PLOW HAS GONE DOWN DEEP, AND THE SOIL HAS BEEN TURNED OVER.

A. IF YOU FELT THE PLOW HAS BEEN THROUGH YOU, AND THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TURNED UP SIDE DOWN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT.

1. **GOD IS GETTING YOU READY FOR SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO COME UP IN YOUR LIFE.**

2. **CRYING IS JUST A LITTLE RAIN.**

3. **THE BLOWING OF THE WIND CAUSES THE PLANTS TO BECOME STRONG.**

4. **YOU DO KNOW THU GAIN STRENGTH THOUGH RESISTANCE.**

5. **YOU ARE AS STRONG AS YOU ARE TODAY BECAUSE YOU WITHSTOOD SOME STORMS YESTERDAY. (ANYBODY HERE BEEN THROUGH A STORM?)**

B. STAY WITH IT.

1. **IF YOU STAY WITH IT, YOU WILL SEND DOWN DEEP ROUTS.**

2. **THEN YOU WILL SEND UP BEAUTIFUL BRANCHES AND YOU'LL BRING FORTH MUCH FRUIT...**

3. MEN, WILL SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND THE FATHER IN HEAVEN WILL GET THE GLORY.

C. PLOWING IS PAINFUL BECAUSE IT'S PURPOSEFUL, SO THERE CAN BE SOME PLANTING TO BRING ON THE PRODUCE.

EXPOSITION

AS A BOY GROWING UP, I HAD TWO OLDER SISTERS, BETTY AND GERALDINE. MAMMA WOULD TELL BETTY AND GERALDINE TO DO SOMETHING AND THEY WOULD DO IT RIGHT AWAY.

SHE WOULD TELL ME, AND SHE WOULD TELL ME AGAIN...AND AGAIN AND THEN MAMMA WOULD SWAT ME WITH THE BELT AND I DO WHAT SHE SAID.

I WAS HARDHEADED.

AM I THE ONLY HARD HEAD IN HERE TODAY?

CONCLUSION

WELL, I WAS THE SAME WAY WITH GOD. HE HAD TO SWAT ME A COUPLE OF TIMES.

HE HAD TO BREAK ME UP AND BREAK ME DOWN.

WELL, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE PLOWING STAGE. I'VE BEEN BROKEN UP AND I'M READY TO PRODUCE...

IF THE LORD NEEDS SOMEBODY, HERE AM I, SEND ME...I'LL GO...I'LL GO...