

## **The Gospel of Luke**

### **Beware How You Listen**

Luke 8:16-21

1. **The Parable of the Soils** (vs.4-8)

This parable marks the beginning of the time when Jesus would speak only the parable, not its explanation, to the masses.

2. **The Disciples Request an Explanation of the Parable** (vs.9-10)

This parable, and its explanation, are keys to understanding all of the parables that Jesus taught (Mark 4:13).

3. **The Explanation of the Parable** (vs.11-15)

The soil on the road (v.12) describes the resolute unbeliever who clearly rejects the gospel. The rocky soil (v.13) describes the ungrounded unbeliever whose unbelief is ultimately unmasked by persecution. The weedy soil (v.14) describes the unrepentant unbeliever who loves the things of this life thereby revealing a false faith. The good soil (v.15) describes the true believer who is firmly grounded in the faith and does not cling to the things of this world but bears fruit with perseverance.

4. **The Implications of the Parable** (vs.16-21)

A. **The Illustration of a Lit Lamp** (vs.16)

The one who hears and believes the message of Christ is compared to someone who lights a lamp in order to fill the room with light. It is inconceivable that such a person would smother that light. There is no such thing as a perpetually clandestine Christian faith.

B. **The Illumination of the Soils** (v.17)

God already knows the difference between the hypocrite and the true believer, but the reality of each person's faith will eventually be laid bare for all to see.

C. **The Reconciling of the Soils** (v.18)

God's final judgment of every man's actions, thoughts, and affections is consistently proclaimed in the Scriptures (Heb 9:27). His judgment is more severe for those who heard the truth and remain in unbelief than it is for unbelievers who did not hear His gospel (Matt 13:12; cf. Luke 12:47-48; 19:20-27).

D. **The Illustration of Family** (vs.19-21; cf. Mark 3:31-35; Matt 12:46-50)

Jesus made a clear distinction between His blood relatives (cf. Matt 13:55) with those who heard and obeyed His message showing themselves to truly be of His family.