Session 2: Am I WILLING to Hear God's Voice?

TEACHING NOTES

What is the key that causes God's Word to come _____?

The Soils

- _____ Heart
- _____ Heart
- _____ Heart
- Good Heart

And the seed in the good ground, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance. (Luke 8:15, NASB)
And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it. (Luke 8:19-21, NASB)

My relationship to the_____will determine my relationship to the_____.

Where has God been _____?

PERSONAL REFLECTION EXERCISE

Pause a moment to pray and reflect on what you've just learned. Then spend some time alone (we suggest at least 15 minutes) to work through the following questions at your own pace—either in your personal journal, in this workbook, or through the online course website.

1

Read Luke 8:4-8; 11-15 (NIV).

*4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from
town after town, he told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed.
As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on,
and the birds ate it up. 6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the
plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns,
which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil.
It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."
11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those
along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes
away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when
they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of
testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who
hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and
pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those
with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering
produce a crop.*

As you reflect on this teaching from Jesus, how are you challenged and encouraged?

"A farmer went out to sow his seed." What are all the ways you could have access to God's Word? Are there any changes you ought to make so that you would be better positioned to hear God's Word?

The path represents those people who hear God's Word but whose hearts are too hard to let the truth sink in. On a scale of 1 to 10, how hard is your heart? Why? What situations, people, or thoughts work to harden your heart?

The rocky soil represents those people who hear God's Word with joy but whose hearts are too shallow to let the truth sink in and grow roots. At the first sign of trouble, they give up. On a scale of 1 to 10, how "rocky" is your heart? Why? What situations, people, or thoughts work to make you give up on your faith?

The thorny soil represents those people who hear God's Word but whose hearts are too distracted by worry and riches. Good actions grow but are choked by the thorns. On a scale of 1 to 10, how distracted is your heart? Why? What situations, people, or thoughts work to choke out the good things in your life?

Consider the first three soils from a positive point of view. What can you do to soften your heart? How can you better persevere and outlast the difficult times? How can you have a greater focus on Jesus?

Do you know anyone with a heart that is hard, shallow, or choked by thorns? How can you encourage that person?

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