

# Take Care Then How You Hear

Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 8:4-21



## Big Idea

Hearing the word of God is dangerous business. Depending on how we respond we are brought either into greater light or greater darkness. We must take care then how we hear!

### (1) The Four Soils (vv. 4-15)

- (1) **The Hard Heart**—There is a war waging in this room right now. And it all centers on the word of God. Satan's objective is to keep you from truly hearing and believing and being saved.
- (2) **The Shallow Heart**—At first, it shoots up with joy—the moment is right, the music is right, it feels nice being in an accepting community, all your friends at the youth camp are doing it, the boy you like is doing it, etc. But there's no root. And in a time of testing they fall away.
- (3) **The Divided Heart**—Jesus is not Lord of this heart. This is when you want Jesus, but you want the world too.
- (4) **The Good Heart**—The disciples all had a bit of the bad soil in them. But, in the end, they listen. They repent and listen. They let Him teach them. They let Him have the last word. They know there's junk in them and they want His help. And Jesus is happy to do so. So they bear fruit.

### (2) The Blessing and the Curse (vv. 16-18)

There's a blessing and a curse held out here. Blessed are those who hear and respond appropriately—they shall hear more and more! But cursed are those who hear and remain unmoved—they shall slowly wither and dry up.

### (3) The Fruitful Family (vv. 19-21)

Jesus will go on in vv. 19-21 and say this: "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it" (v. 21). Hearing God's word and bearing fruit is not only the mark of good soil, it's the mark of a child of God!

Suggestions for Application: **(1) Get in the Word; (2) Pray for Help; (3) Prioritize Sundays; (4) Let It Linger; and (5) Consider the "Evening Service"**.

## Reflection Questions



- Are you prone to downplay Satan's activity in the world? What verses in Scripture would warn against this? How do you think He has been at work in your own heart lately?
- Which soil would you say most characterizes where you're at right now? In what ways are you tempted away from the good soil and towards one of the three fruitless soils?
- How have you experienced God's revelation on the other side of obedience? In other words: how has obeying what little you know of God's word led to greater understanding and insight into God's word?
- Which of the five suggestions for application above are you strongest in? In which are you weakest? What other suggestions would you add? How can we help each other take care how we hear the word of God?