

PARABLE OF THE HEARERS

or

HOW WELL DO YOU HEAR?

Luke 8:4-15

LUKE 8b

⁷ Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the **thorns grew up** with it and choked it out. ⁸

Other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and **produced a crop** a hundred times as great."

As He said these things, He would call out, **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."**

⁹ His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant. ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

MATTHEW 13

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ Jesus answered them, "To you **it has been granted to know** the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. ¹² For **whoever has**, to him *more* shall be given, and **he will have an abundance**; but whoever does not have, even **what he has shall be taken away** from him.

MATTHEW 13b

¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing **they do not see**, and while hearing **they do not hear, nor do they understand**. ¹⁴ In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is **being fulfilled**, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

MATTHEW 13c

¹⁵ FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS
BECOME DULL,
WITH THEIR EARS THEY **SCARCELY HEAR,**
AND THEY HAVE **CLOSED THEIR EYES,**
OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH
THEIR EYES,
HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,
AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART
AND RETURN,
AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

LUKE 8

⁴ When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:

⁵ “The **sower** went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was **trampled under foot** and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶

Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because **it had no moisture**.

LUKE 8c

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and **takes away the word from their heart**, so that they will not **believe** and be saved. ¹³ Those on the *rocky soil* are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these **have no firm root**; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

WHAT WE BELIEVED WILL HARDEN US FROM HEARING

- **External Appearance and Talent is the path to popularity.**
- **Success is measured by the wealth we gained.**
- **Living is found in the pleasures and luxuries we can enjoy?**

SUPERVISOR'S PUBLIC MELTDOWN

Devastated by scandal, Lockyer, in tears, resigns



Nadia Lockyer, an Alameda County supervisor and wife of state Treasurer Bill Lockyer, says she will resign from office after months of scandal to concentrate on overcoming her addiction and to focus on caring for her 8-year-old son. KARL MONDON/STAFF

When asked in an exclusive interview to explain why she was quitting, Lockyer, who celebrates her 41st birthday Saturday, paused for a moment, tears welling in her eyes, and told this newspaper: "I'm resigning today as a mother, and as ... I don't like to say the word

**Alameda County
Supervisor:
Molded by a
culture that seeks
outward beauty, is
like so many who
have believed the
lie, "Beauty is the
path, while
popularity and
pleasures are what
is good in life"**

LACK COMMITMENTS TO BUILD STRONG FAITH

- **Did not learn the reason for the way we live.**
 - **Unable to stand alone**
 - **Unable to face mockery of companions**
- **Did not learn spiritual strength**
 - **Unable to resist the temptations of this world**
- **Did not learn how to deal with Fear.**
 - **Unable to walk by Faith.**

LUKE 8d

¹⁴ The *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are **choked with worries and riches and pleasures** of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have **heard the word in an honest and good heart**, and **hold it fast**, and bear fruit with perseverance.

WHAT WE ALLOW INTO OUR LIVES WILL PREVENT FRUITFULNESS

- **Attractive Plants enter and spread in our lives.**
- **Consider what plans and activities are filling your life?**
 - **Toys for guys and Fashion for gals**
 - **Earning a living, but forgetting what is living**

WHAT MAKES A SOIL GOOD?

Starts with an honest and a good heart:

An open and attentive hearer

Holds the truth fast:

Accepts what is heard

Settled on it's worth,

Ready to live for it.