

Study Guide for January 7th, 2000. Series: Following Jesus. #1: Luke 8:4-15 - Heart Examination.

1. Recall a time when you had some physical diagnosis by a physician. Describe what happened and what the doctor prescribed to address your concern.
2. The PARABOLIC method of teaching:
 - A. Describe the reaction to Jesus ministry at this point (Luke 8:4).
 - B. What does Jesus accomplish by utilizing the PARABOLIC method of teaching? (Luke 8:9-10)
 - C. Note the quote from Isaiah 6:9 (context is Isaiah 6:8-13). Reflect and comment on the following statement, “Parables both reveal and conceal truth: they reveal it to the genuine seeker who will take the trouble to dig beneath the surface and discover the meaning, but they conceal it from him who is content simply to listen to the story. Parables are a mine of information to those who are earnest, but they are a judgment on the casual and careless.” (Luke, pg. 152, Leon Morris)
3. The PARTICULARS of the FOUR SOILS.
 - A. Match the following statements and descriptions to the appropriate soil type. (Luke 8:5-8)

PATH:	1. Seed . . . no moisture / in but not down / withers and dies
ROCKY:	2. Seed . . . trampled / on but not in / eaten by birds
THORNY:	3. Seed . . . thrives / on, in, down and up / produced 100x
GOOD:	4. Seed . . . choked by weeds / on, in, down but not up / fruitless
 - B. The Palestinian sower sowed first and plowed afterwards. On the surface all the soils look the same. When and how is the true condition of the soil revealed?
 - C. Summarize Jesus’ explanation (Luke 8:11-15) of that which prevents (or promotes) a harvest. The seed is the **word of God**, the four soils represent kinds of people in their response to God’s word.

The hearer whose heart is like a **path** . . .

The hearer whose heart is like **rocky** soil . . .

The hearer whose heart is like **thorny** soil . . .

The hearer whose heart is like **good** soil . . .
4. APPLICATION of the FOUR SOILS. “He who has ears to hear, LET HIM HEAR!” Jesus
 1. What type of soil best describes your response to the word of God? How could you “improve” the condition of your heart so that the word would be more “fruitful” in your life?
 2. As a disciple of Jesus, how does this parable equip you for your service of witnessing for Christ?