



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH



HEART CHECK

A SERMON SERIES ON LUKE 8:4-15

— PART 2: —

THE STONY HEART

What's Underneath the Soil?

— LUKE 8:6, 13 —

— PASTOR MIKE HOLLOWAY —



Luke 8:4-13

4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

Luke 8:4-13

8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’

Luke 8:4-13

11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

1. THE SECOND HEART CONDITION

Last week's lesson was on the seed that fell by the wayside. The continual traffic made the ground hard. The hard heart would not let the Word IN.

The shallow heart receives the Word — but will not let it go DOWN deep.

Visible growth appears, but sustaining roots never develop.

DON'T JUST GROW UP — GROW DOWN.

2. LUKE'S PICTURE

“Some fell on **rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.”**

— Luke 8:6

3. JESUS EXPLAINS THE SOIL

“When they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.”

— Luke 8:13

4. JOYFUL RECEPTION — BUT NOT DEPTH

They HEAR the Word.

They RECEIVE the Word.

They receive it WITH JOY.

The problem is not the beginning — it is the lack of depth.

Emotion can begin a response; it cannot replace rootedness.

5. THE HIDDEN PROBLEM: ROCK UNDERNEATH

The surface may look receptive while something underneath prevents deeper growth.

You can see leaves, enthusiasm, attendance and activity — but you cannot immediately see roots.

Testing eventually exposes what was hidden.

What is happening BELOW the surface?

6. “THESE HAVE NO ROOT”

Something sprang up, but nothing developed deeply.

Roots provide STABILITY and draw NOURISHMENT.

Spiritual maturity is not measured by how quickly you spring up, but by how deeply you grow down.

God is concerned with the hidden life that sustains the visible life.

7. WHAT'S UNDERNEATH YOUR SOIL?

Jesus defines the problem as “no root.”

Bitterness, unforgiveness, pride, fear, secret sin or conditional commitment are applications — not Jesus' explicit definition of the rock.

They can FUNCTION LIKE rock when they resist deeper surrender.

Sometimes God must expose what is hard underneath before roots can go deeper.

8. UNFORGIVENESS & BITTERNESS UNDERNEATH?

Unforgiveness can create an area where we resist God's command to forgive — Ephesians 4:31–32.

Hebrews 12:15 warns of a “root of bitterness” that springs up and causes trouble.

Unresolved hurt can occupy soil needed for healthy spiritual growth.

What happens when the Word touches the person who hurt you?

9. PRIDE, SECRET SIN & AN UNTEACHABLE HEART?

Pride resists correction — James 4:6.

Hidden sinful attachments resist surrender — Luke 9:23.

An unteachable spirit wants encouragement without correction — Proverbs 12:1.

Can God correct me, confront me and still keep me?

10. FEAR, COMFORT & CONDITIONAL COMMITMENT?

Fear of people can weaken conviction when obedience becomes socially costly — John 12:42–43.

Love of comfort can make the cross seem optional — Luke 9:23.

Conditional faith says: “I’ll follow Jesus as long as...”

Will I still follow when the conditions change?

11. LUKE'S UNIQUE DETAIL: "LACKED MOISTURE"

There was enough for a START — but not enough for sustainability.

Roots keep the plant standing and keep it drinking.

The rooted believer learns to draw continually from Christ, Scripture, prayer, obedience and fellowship.

A beginning is not the same thing as endurance.

12. ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith...”

— Colossians 2:6–7

13. “THEY BELIEVE FOR A WHILE”

Jesus emphasizes a response that does not endure.

Christianity is more than a spiritual moment — Jesus calls us to FOLLOW Him.

God wants more than an impressive beginning; He wants an established believer.

**The question is not only: DID I START? — WILL I
CONTINUE?**

14. THE TEST: “IN TIME OF TEMPTATION”

Testing does not necessarily create the shallowness — it exposes it.

The rock was already underneath before the pressure came.

Trials often REVEAL what is in us.

Pressure reveals depth.

15. WHEN THE WORD ITSELF COSTS YOU

Mark 4:17: tribulation or persecution arises “for the word’s sake.”

Matthew 13:21: trouble comes “because of the word.”

Sometimes obedience to Scripture creates the pressure.

Do I still want Jesus when Jesus costs me something?

16. THE SUN IS NOT THE ENEMY

Plants need sunlight; the problem is inadequate roots and moisture.

The same pressure that exposes shallow growth can mature rooted faith.

James 1:2–4 and Romans 5:3–4 show trials producing endurance and character.

Don't only pray for less heat — pray for deeper roots.

17. JOHN 6 — WHEN FOLLOWING BECAME HARD

The crowds enjoyed miracles and multiplied bread.

When Jesus' teaching became difficult, many “went back and walked with Him no more” — John 6:66.

Difficulty exposed the depth of their commitment.

Surface attachment can disappear when truth becomes costly.

18. PETER'S ROOTED RESPONSE

**“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words
of eternal life.”
— John 6:68**

19. WHAT FEEDS SHALLOW CHRISTIANITY?

Emotion without foundation.

Information without application.

Inspiration without discipleship.

Comfort without cost.

We cannot expect FRUIT without ROOTS.

20. HOW DO I DEVELOP DEEP ROOTS?

Get rooted in the WORD — Psalm 1:2–3.

Develop a real PRAYER life.

PRACTICE what you learn — James 1:22.

Stay connected to the BODY — Hebrews 10:24–25.

Roots deepen through sustained dependence and obedience.

21. LEARN TO ENDURE

Do not interpret every hardship as God abandoning you.
The testing of faith produces perseverance — James 1:3.
Difficult seasons can reveal where roots still need to grow.

A rooted faith learns to stand in the heat.

22. HEART CHECK

Can I follow Jesus when I am not excited?

Can I obey when I do not understand?

Can I receive correction without walking away?

Is there something hard underneath that I refuse to surrender?

Am I growing ROOTS — or only growing LEAVES?

23. LORD, TAKE ME DEEPER

Expose the rock.

Deepen my roots.

Teach me to draw continually from Christ.

Make my faith durable under pressure.

The hard heart won't let the Word IN. • The shallow heart won't let the Word DOWN.