



HEART CHECK

A SERMON SERIES

PART 4:

GOOD GROUND

Pastor
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A HEART THAT BEARS FRUIT

LUKE 8:4-15



WALKING ON WATER
BIBLE CHURCH

— Luke 8:4-15

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

— Luke 8:4-15

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.

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!”

— Luke 8:4-15

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 8:4-15

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.

— Luke 8:4-15

14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

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SAME SEED. DIFFERENT SOILS.

- The seed is the Word of God — Luke 8:11.
- The soil pictures differing responses to that Word.
- The farmer seeks a harvest, not merely a beginning.

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THE FOUR HEART CONDITIONS

- **HARD:** The Word does not penetrate — Luke 8:12.
- **SHALLOW:** The Word has no enduring root — v. 13.
- **CROWDED:** Competing concerns choke growth — v. 14.
- **GOOD:** The Word produces fruit — v. 15.

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THE THORNS: A FINAL WARNING

- Cares, riches and pleasures choke the Word.
- The plant grows but produces no mature fruit.
- Distraction can prevent fruit without open rejection.

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WHAT MAKES GOOD SOIL DIFFERENT?

“Having heard the word with a noble and good heart,
keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

LUKE 8:15 (NKJV)

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MOVEMENT 1 — HEAR THE WORD

- Jesus calls: “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” — Luke 8:8.
- “Take heed how you hear.” — Luke 8:18.
- Attentive hearing means more than hearing sounds.

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HEAR WITH FAITH AND HUMILITY

- Receive the implanted Word with meekness — James 1:21.
- Israel heard God's promise yet responded in unbelief — Hebrews 4:2.
- Ask: Am I listening to learn, trust and obey?

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MOVEMENT 2 — A GOOD & NOBLE HEART

- Luke uses kalos and agathos: noble and good.
- A sincere, receptive, teachable disposition.
- Not a sinless heart or goodness that earns salvation.

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THE GOOD HEART WELCOMES CORRECTION

- David acknowledged sin when confronted — 2 Samuel 12:13.
- “Create in me a clean heart” — Psalm 51:10.
- An honest heart asks God to expose its blind spots — Psalm 139:23–24.

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A GOOD HEART IS NOT A PERFECT HEART

- Believers still need correction and repentance.
- God promises inward renewal — Ezekiel 36:26.
- God works in us to will and to do — Philippians 2:13.

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MOVEMENT 3 — KEEP THE WORD

- “Keep it” — Luke 8:15.
- Greek katechō: hold firmly; retain.
- Good soil does not let the Word slip away.

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KEEPING MEANS DOING

- Be doers, not hearers only — James 1:22.
- Jesus links love with keeping His commands — John 14:15.
- The wise builder hears AND obeys — Matthew 7:24.

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KEEP THE WORD WHEN IT COSTS

- Hold fast your confession — Hebrews 10:23.
- Testing exposed the shallow soil — Luke 8:13.
- Faithful hearing persists when obedience is hard.

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MOVEMENT 4 — BEAR FRUIT

- The good soil produces a harvest — Luke 8:8, 15.
- Abiding in Christ produces fruit — John 15:4–5.
- Fruit is the outcome of genuine spiritual growth.

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WHAT DOES FRUIT LOOK LIKE?

- CHARACTER: Love, patience, gentleness — Galatians 5:22–23.
- GOOD WORKS: A worthy walk — Colossians 1:10.
- OBEDIENCE: Putting Christ's words into practice — Matthew 7:24.

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FRUIT IS MORE THAN PUBLIC ACTIVITY

- Ministry involvement does not replace character.
- Knowledge should lead toward Christlikeness.
- Private faithfulness matters as much as visibility.

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WITH PATIENCE — THE KEY WORD

- Luke 8:15 says fruit comes “with patience.”
- Greek hypomonē: steadfast endurance.
- The harvest requires continuing faithfulness.

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PERSEVERANCE DEVELOPS MATURITY

- Testing of faith produces patience — James 1:2–4.
- Tribulation can produce perseverance and character — Romans 5:3–4.
- Do not grow weary in doing good — Galatians 6:9.

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HOW TO CULTIVATE A FRUITFUL HEART

- RECEIVE humbly — James 1:21.
- MEDITATE consistently — Psalm 1:2–3.
- OBEY intentionally — James 1:22.
- REMOVE hindrances — Hebrews 12:1.

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THE FINAL HEART CHECK

- Am I receptive when Scripture corrects me?
- Am I holding to the Word under pressure?
- Is my life showing increasing spiritual fruit?
- Am I persevering rather than merely beginning?

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THE SERIES IN ONE SENTENCE

- The HARD heart won't let the Word IN.
- The SHALLOW heart won't let the Word DOWN.
- The CROWDED heart won't let the Word GROW.
- The GOOD heart lets the Word WORK.

— HEART CHECK / PART 4

THE CALL: LET THE WORD BEAR FRUIT

- HEAR with faith.
- RECEIVE with a good and noble heart.
- KEEP the Word through obedience.
- BEAR FRUIT with patience.