

# From Root to Fruit

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Preached by Pastor Brad

## KEY PASSAGES

### Luke 8:4-15 (NIV)

*While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.' This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."*

## FIVE KEY POINTS

- 1 This is the first parable in Luke.** Jesus tells a crowd about a farmer scattering seed, gives no explanation, and closes with "whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." That was the whole public teaching.
- 2 The disciples were as lost as everybody else. They asked.** They had no special insight into the story. What set them apart is that not understanding bothered them enough to go ask him.
- 3 The confusion was deliberate.** Jesus points back to Isaiah 6:9, where God sends Isaiah to a people who will hear and not understand. What someone does with a story they cannot follow shows the condition of their heart.
- 4 Worries, riches and pleasures get named in the same breath.** Anxiety is an obvious problem. Money and comfort sit right beside it as thorns, and he tied that to Christianity thinning out in wealthy countries while it grows in the global South.
- 5 The crop is a grain field, not a fruit tree.** He had pictured a seed becoming a tree with fruit on it, which makes the whole thing about one person. A field of grain is the seed multiplying, and spreading it is our job.

## STORIES & ILLUSTRATIONS

**Reading the Bible cover to cover.** Genesis pulls you along and Hollywood keeps making movies out of Exodus. Then come Leviticus, Numbers and the minor prophets who seem to be yelling the whole time, and it starts to feel like a parable nobody explained.

**The rototiller he could not borrow.** Cultivation looks easy enough from the seat of a big tractor. Turning a garden over by hand, the year you cannot borrow your father-in-law's rototiller, is a decent amount of work.

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