

Approximately 40 minutes Expository



**Title: The Seed, the Soil, and the Sure
Hope of Salvation**

Text: Luke 8:1-15

Opening Prayer:

Father God, in the name of Jesus, we come before You with grateful hearts. Thank You for Your Holy Word, which is living and active and able to search the deepest places of our hearts. Lord, open our eyes today to understand this passage. Soften our hearts so that we would receive Your truth. Strengthen the believer, awaken the careless, and draw the lost to Christ. Help me speak clearly and faithfully. Let Jesus be lifted high, and let Your Spirit do the work that only You can do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Historical Setting:

Luke chapter 8 takes place during the active public ministry of Jesus in Galilee. The Lord is traveling from town to town and village to village, preaching the good news of the kingdom of God.

Crowds are gathering.

- Some come because they truly want God.
- Some come out of curiosity.
- Some come because they have seen miracles.
- Some come with hard hearts.
- Some come with shallow excitement.
- And some come with religious appearance but no true surrender.

That is important, because Luke 8 is not just about farming.

 It is about hearing.

- It is about the condition of the heart.
- It is about why some respond to the Word of God and are changed, while others sit near Jesus, hear the same truth, and still **miss the mark**.

And in this passage, the Lord gives us both comfort and warning.

- **Comfort** for the truly saved.
- **Warning** for the merely religious.
- **Assurance** for the believer who belongs to Christ.
- **Exposure** for the person who looks spiritual on the outside but has never truly received the Word into a believing heart.

Jesus and the Advance of the Kingdom:

Here is God's Word.... **Luke 8:1-3**(NIV)
After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and

also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, 👉 KOO-zuh the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

So as we look into God's Word verse 1...

Luke 8:1 says, **"After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God...."**

Notice the movement of Jesus. He is not hiding truth. He is proclaiming it. He is sowing the seed of the Word everywhere. He is preaching openly, lovingly, faithfully.

👉 The kingdom message is going out.

In Verses 2 and 3 tell us that the twelve were with Him, and also several women who had been healed and delivered,

including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others. These women were helping support the ministry.

👉 That detail matters.

👉 The gospel not only saves souls; it changes lives.

People who have truly been touched by Jesus do not stay the same. Their past no longer defines them. Their bondage no longer owns them.

👉 Grace produces gratitude, and gratitude produces service.

That is already a quiet picture of real salvation.

Real salvation is not empty religion.

- It is not just showing up.
- It is not just language.
- It is not just appearance.

👉 Real salvation changes the direction of the heart.

The Parable of the Sower:

Luke 8:4-8(NIV) ⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ “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. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ 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.”

Now Jesus explains what He just said to his inner circle.....

Luke 8:9-15(NIV)

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ 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.’

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.

Let us look into this parable that Jesus is preaching to the crowds.

Luke 8:5 says, **“A farmer went out to sow his seed....”**

The seed is the **Word of God**. Jesus tells us that plainly in **verse 11**.

- The seed is not the problem. The gospel is not weak. The Word of God is living, powerful, and effective. If there is a problem, it is not with the seed.

➤ 🖐️ It is with the soil.

The soil represents the **human heart**.

Think about it....The same Word is preached, but hearts respond differently.

1. The Soil Beside the Path: The Hardened Heart

Verse 5 says, **“.....As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.”**

Jesus explains in verse 12: **“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.”**

🖐️ This is the hardened heart.

- The Word lands, but it does not enter.
- It is exposed, unreceived, and quickly removed.

This is the person who hears truth but remains unmoved.

- They may sit in church.
- They may hear sermons.
- They may know Christian vocabulary.
- They may even enjoy religious discussions.

But the heart is hard. The Word never penetrates. The **devil** snatches it away before it takes root.

This is one of the great dangers of repeated exposure without repentance.

A person can become familiar with holy things and still remain lost.

👉 They know the sound of the gospel, but they never bow to the Savior of the gospel.

That is religious appearance “**missing the mark**”, which is the very definition of “sin”

Sin separates us from God.... **Isaiah 59:2**
(NIV) ***“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”***

- It is possible to be around Jesus and still not belong to Jesus.
- It is possible to hear the Word and never receive the Word.
- It is possible to look interested and still be spiritually dead.

And let us be very plain: **Jesus says** the issue here is that they ***“...may not believe and be saved.”*** (Vs.12).

- This person is not losing salvation.
- This person never came into salvation.

👉 The missing issue is genuine faith.

2. The Rocky Soil: The Shallow Heart

Verse 6 says, **“Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.”**

Jesus explains in verse 13: **“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.”**

👉 This is the **shallow heart**.

- There is quick **emotion**, but no depth.
- There is **excitement**, but no root.
- There is **response**, but not true surrender.

This person looks promising at first.

- They are enthusiastic.
- They seem thrilled.
- They may speak about God with passion.

But when testing comes, they fall away because there was no root system. No depth. It seemed genuine at first, but it did not remain because it was not deeply rooted.

Now this is where many believers become troubled.

They ask, “**Does this mean someone can be truly saved and then lose salvation?**”

👉 But the picture here points to something else.

Jesus is not describing a **secure believer** who accidentally slipped out of God’s hand.

👉 He is exposing a superficial response that never became a deeply rooted, saving faith.

The proof is in the lack of root.

Temporary excitement is not the same as regeneration.

👉 Real salvation is not based on emotional intensity. It is based on union with Christ.

When a person is truly born again, the Spirit of God takes up residence in them.

- The believer may struggle.
- The believer may stumble.
- The believer may go through dark seasons.

👉 But a true believer has roots because **Christ** our **Messiah** has hold of them.

- Our security is not found in how emotional or dramatic our beginning was.
- Our security is found in **Jesus Christ**, who saves us, keeps us, and faithfully completes the work He began in us.

👉 Many people mistake emotion for transformation.

- They mistake a moment for a new birth.
- They mistake tears for transformation.

👉 But Jesus lovingly sees deeper than outward appearance. He is not just looking for a temporary reaction; He is looking for a **real heart of faith** that truly belongs to Him.

3. The Thorny Soil: The Crowded Heart

Verse 7 says, **“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.”**

Jesus explains in verse 14: **“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.”**

This one is **very dangerous** because it can look respectable.

- This person may not be openly hostile.

- They may not appear shallow.
- They may continue around spiritual things.

But their heart is crowded. The Word is not rejected immediately; it is **suffocated gradually**.

Jesus names three choking forces: **worries, riches, and pleasures**.

- Some are choked by worries. They are consumed with survival, fear, pressure, and the cares of life.
- Some are choked by riches. They are consumed with success, money, comfort, and possessions.
- Some are choked by pleasures. They are consumed with entertainment, appetite, self, and worldly satisfaction.

The issue is not that these things exist. The issue is that they **dominate**. 🖐️ They crowd out the Word.

The person **never comes to maturity.**

Again, notice the warning. You can have a life that looks busy, respectable, and even religious, and **still miss the mark.**

- There may be church attendance.
- There may be moral language.
- There may be spiritual association.

But Christ is being choked out by everything else.

This is one of the clearest pictures of religious appearance without spiritual fruit.

From a distance, **it looks alive.** But there is no mature fruit.

👉 “Fruit does not save a person, but fruit does reveal the **reality of a saved person.**”

Matthew 7:16(NIV) **16 By their fruit you will recognize them.....**

👉 **A person can look spiritually developed without being Born Again....**

Someone can:

- know Bible language
- attend church regularly
- serve in ministry
- clean up their lifestyle
- speak with emotion about God
- even influence others outwardly

👉 But that is not the same as salvation.

The Pharisees are a strong example of this. They had knowledge, discipline, structure, and religious appearance, but many of them missed Christ Himself. Jesus repeatedly showed that outward religion is not the same as a changed heart.

4. The Good Soil: The Honest and Good Heart

Verse 8 says, **“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”**

Then Jesus explains in verse 15: **“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.”**

Here is the picture of true conversion.

- They hear the Word.
- They retain it.
- They endure.
- They produce fruit.

👉 This is the genuine believer.

Not the **perfect believer**, but the real believer.

Please notice that fruit is the result, not the cause.

The soil did not create the seed.

The seed brought life. In the same way, **salvation** is by **grace through faith**. It is the work of God.

But where the Word is truly received, life follows. Growth follows. Fruit follows.

And this is where the **security of salvation** shines brightly.

The truly saved person is not secure because they are strong.

👉 They are secure because the life of God has taken root in them.

It is all about JESUS!!!

The Word has been received. The Spirit is at work. There is endurance, not because the believer is naturally impressive, but because God sustains what God begins.

- A true Christian may go through trials.
- A true Christian may battle sin.
- A true Christian may experience discipline, correction, and seasons of weakness.

- But the true Christian will never be lost in the end, because salvation is God's work from beginning to end.

The good soil bears fruit “**by persevering.**” That does not mean we save ourselves by trying harder. It means genuine faith continues because it is real. It endures because God preserves His people.

Security for the Saved:

This passage should bring strong assurance to the true believer.

If you belong to Christ, your salvation is not resting on a religious performance.

- It is not resting on your outward appearance.
- It is not resting on your ability to impress others.

 It rests on **Jesus Christ, the Savior who died for your sins and rose again.**

- The question is not, “Do I look religious enough?”
- 🙌 The question is, “Have I truly received the Word of God in faith?”
- The question is, “Do I belong to Jesus?”
- The question is, “Has His life taken root in me?”

Sometimes tender believers read this parable and become afraid. But this parable was not given to torment the true sheep.

🙌 It was given to reveal false confidence and point people to genuine faith.

If you are in Christ, even your concern over your heart is **evidence** that God is working in you.

- The hardened heart does not care.
- The false heart pretends.

👉 But the true believer wants the Lord, wants truth, wants fruit, and wants nearness to **Jesus**.

So do not put your confidence in appearances. Put your confidence in **Christ**.

A Warning About Missing the Mark:

At the same time, this passage gives a serious warning to the merely religious.

- You can sit under good preaching and still be lost.
- You can enjoy Christian truth and still be lost.
- You can have moments of emotion and still be lost.
- You can look respectable and still be lost.
- You can know the language of faith and still never have bowed the knee to Christ.

That is why this text is so searching.

- The question is not whether the seed was scattered..... It was....
- The question is not whether the people heard.... They did....

👉 The question is what happened in the heart.

Invitation to Be Born Again:

And that brings us to the most important part.

- Maybe as you listened today, you realized that you have had religious appearance, but not real surrender.
- Maybe the Word has been near you, but not in you.
- Maybe you have had church, but not Christ.
- Maybe you have had emotion, but not conversion.

- Maybe you have had spiritual interest, but not saving faith.

👉 Today, the Lord is calling you to receive His Word with a believing heart.

- Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.
- He was buried.
- He rose again in victory.
- He offers forgiveness, cleansing, and eternal life to all who will come to Him in repentance and faith.
- You do not need to polish yourself first.
- You do not need to pretend.
- You do not need a religious mask.

Just come as a sinner to the Savior.

Call on the name of the Lord.

Ask Him to forgive you.

Ask Him to save you.

Trust in Christ alone.

John 3:16-17(NIV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Come... just as you are and say something like this....

Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner..... I cannot save myself..... I believe You died for me and rose again..... Forgive me..... Wash me..... Fill me..... Be my Lord and Savior.....” Amen.

“If” you come to Him in faith, He will not turn you away.

It really is that easy... God made it easy for all of us. Welcome to the family of God....

Brothers and Sisters,

Rejoice!!! Eternal life is yours!!!

Your hope is not in appearance.

👉 Your hope is in Jesus.

- Stay near the Word.
- Let Him keep softening your heart.
- Let Him keep producing fruit in your life.

Let us Pray.....

Closing Prayer:

Father God, thank You for the truth of Your Word. Thank You that Jesus still sows the seed. Thank You that salvation is real, powerful, and secure in Christ. Lord God, protect us from empty religion, from shallow response, and from distracted hearts. Make us good soil by Your grace.

For those who already know You, strengthen their assurance and help them bear fruit with persistence. For those who are not yours, please draw them now... to true repentance and faith.

We love You, Lord. Keep us faithful, humble, and close to You. In your mighty name “Yeshua” we pray, Amen.



👉 Note: Yeshua 👉 **yeh-SHOO-uh** is Jesus Christ the Messiah in Hebrew...

It means: 👉 **“The LORD saves”** or **“Salvation”**