LUKE 8

Take Care How You Listen

four soils, a lamp on a stand, a storm on the lake, a man named Legion, and two daughters

> *"So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him."*
> LUKE 8:18

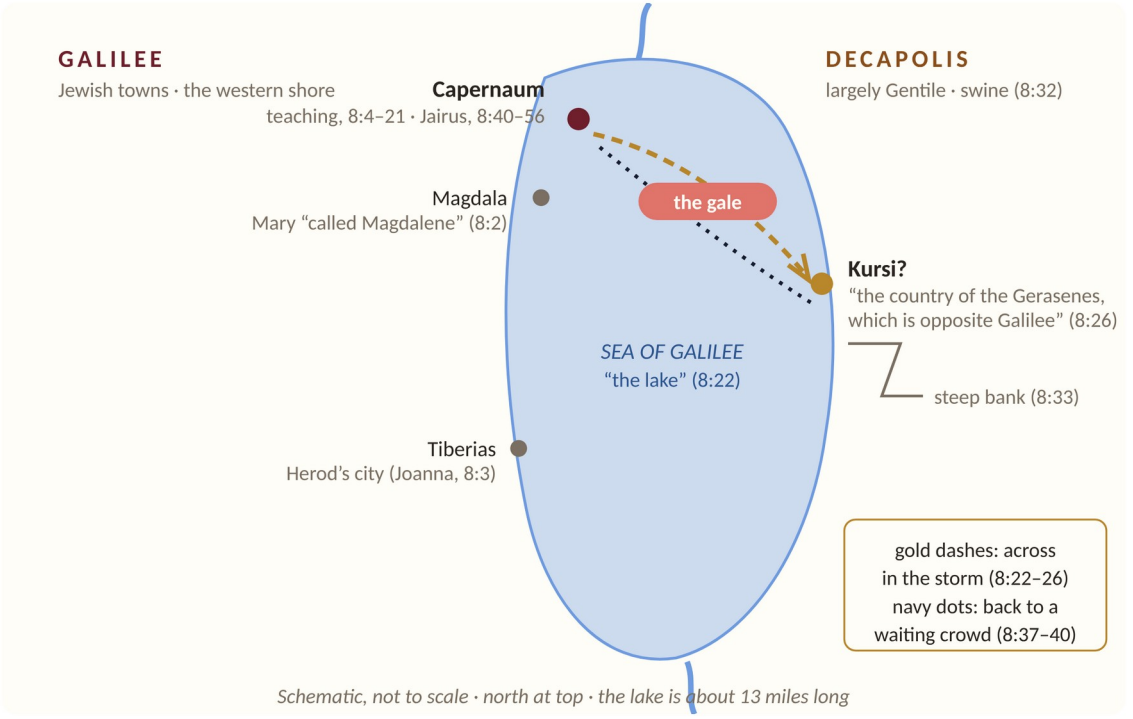
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 7 ended with a forgiven woman sent away in peace and a table of guests asking, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?”

2. The word “hear” runs through the chapter like a thread — “hear,” “heard,” “hearing” or “listen” ten times — and it comes to a point in verse 18: “So take care how you listen.”

3. The geography matters. Jesus taught on the western, Jewish side of the Sea of Galilee, around Capernaum.



The Seed Is the Word of God

Women who gave, crowds who gathered, and a parable about four kinds of ground

LUKE 8:8

"Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great." As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

DAVID GUZIK

Never the seed, always the soil; Satan believes in the word's power.

R.C. SPROUL

Parables reveal and conceal; the test of conversion is fruit.

C.H. SPURGEON

Like a highway never meant for corn; God never sets a man longing in vain.

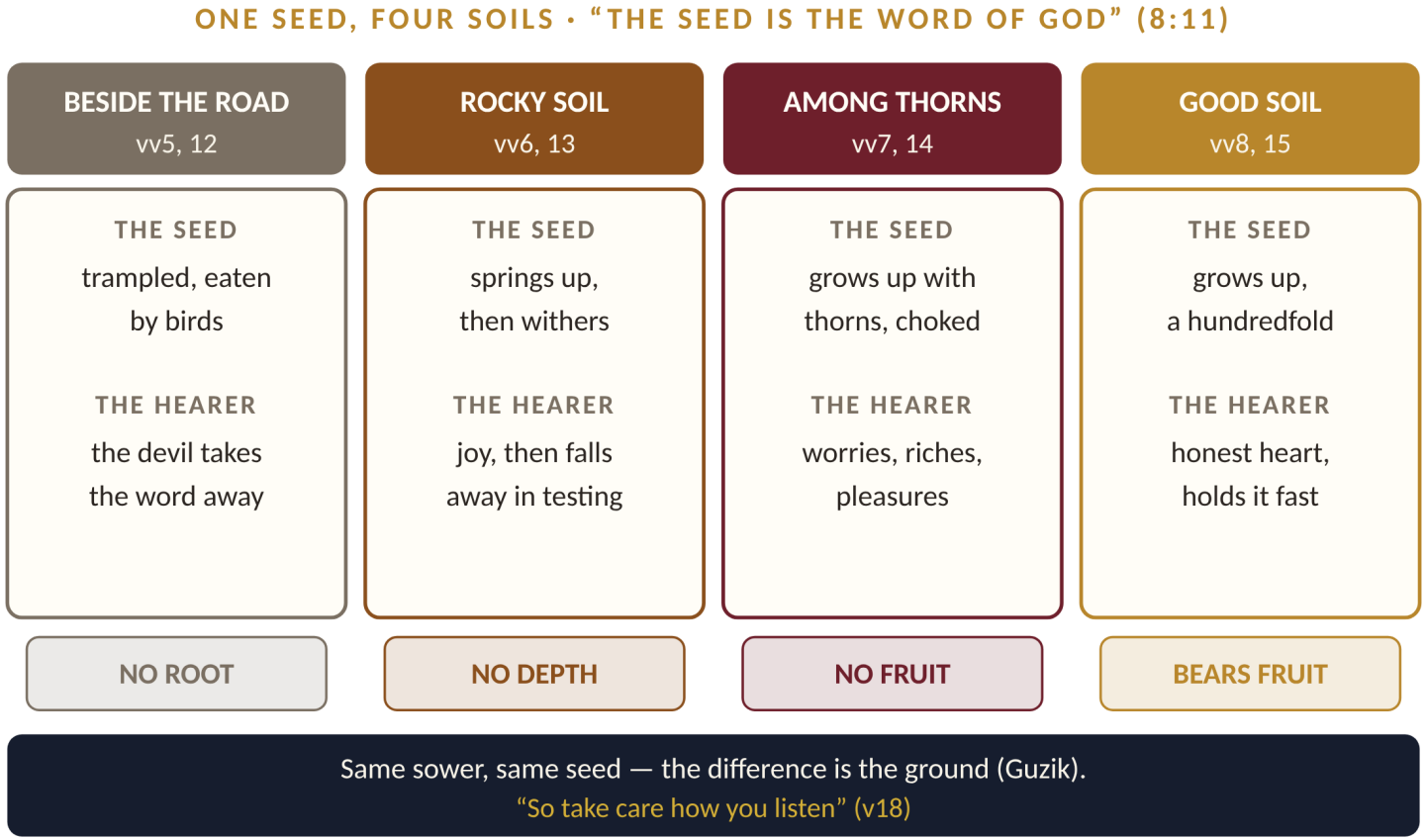
MATTHEW HENRY

The heart is soil; the devil works to hinder our profiting.

μυστήρια
MYSTĒRIA · "MYSTERIES"

Not a puzzle for the clever but a secret God has chosen to make known.

One seed, four soils



Read each column top to bottom — what happens to the seed, then what Jesus says it means for the hearer; only the last soil holds the word fast.

Take Care How You Listen

A lamp on a stand, nothing hidden forever, and the family of Jesus

LUKE 8:16

"Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light.

DAVID GUZIK

God didn't light your lamp to hide it; hear and do.

R.C. SPROUL

No "Secret Service Christian"; live in the light; adopted.

C.H. SPURGEON

An ear for others, a heart for Latimer; aim at the heart.

MATTHEW HENRY

Received gifts must be shared; His family hears and does.

βλέπετε

BLEPETE · "TAKE CARE"

The ordinary verb "to see" used as a warning: "Watch out!"

Where Is Your Faith?

A sleeping Savior, a fierce gale, and a fear greater than the storm

LUKE 8:24

They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.

DAVID GUZIK

Unbelief rejects a promise; Jesus is on board.

R.C. SPROUL

Nothing scarier than the Holy; casual worship is a contradiction.

MATTHEW HENRY

Even at Christ's word, prepare for a storm; He lays storms.

Ἐπιστάτα

EPISTATA · "MASTER"

Epistatēs, one set over others — a chief, a commander.

What Great Things God Has Done

A man in the tombs, a legion of demons, a drowned herd, and a town that wanted Jesus gone

LUKE 8:28

Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."

DAVID GUZIK

Legion is a bluff; more afraid of a free man than a possessed one.

R.C. SPROUL

No theology without demonology; killed because He was holy.

C.H. SPURGEON

Devils are sound believers in theory; we must have to do with Christ.

MATTHEW HENRY

Spirits numerous; those who love their swine lose their Savior.

Λεγιών
LEGIŌN · "LEGION"

A Latin loanword: a Roman legion was several thousand soldiers.

Only Believe

A ruler's dying daughter, a woman who touched His cloak, and a girl called back from death

LUKE 8:44

came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

DAVID GUZIK

Only she is called "Daughter"; God often seems slow.

R.C. SPROUL

Never too late; not resuscitation but resurrection.

C.H. SPURGEON

She would die hard; one touch of union and the work is done.

MATTHEW HENRY

Weak faith not rejected; bold and daring faith.

κράσπεδον
KRASPEDON · "FRINGE"

The edge or tassel of a garment.

Two daughters, twelve years

TWO DAUGHTERS, TWELVE YEARS · LUKE 8:40–56

JAIRUS	THE WOMAN
named (v41)	unnamed (v43)
synagogue official (v41)	unclean, shut out (Lev 15:25)
comes openly, falls at His feet	comes from behind, in secret (v44)
an only daughter, twelve years old	ill for twelve years (v43)
“Do not be afraid … only believe” (v50)	“Daughter, your faith has made you well” (v48)
“Child, arise!” — she gets up (vv54–55)	“go in peace” (v48)

The delay that saved the woman tested Jairus — and Jesus was in time for both.

Read across the rows: a leading man and an outcast woman come to Jesus from opposite ends of society, and both are met by His word.

What to carry from this chapter

1

The difference is the soil.

Guzik: “The difference is never the seed, but on the kind of soil it lands on.”

2

Parables open and close.

Sproul: “Parables were given not only to reveal but to conceal.”

3

Fruit takes perseverance.

Hypomonē — remaining under the load.

4

Hearing is never neutral.

“So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given” (v18).

More to carry

5

Jesus' family hears and does.

Not blood but obedience: "these who hear the word of God and do it" (v21).

6

He had already said "the other side."

Guzik: "Unbelief is the rejection of a promise or a command of God relevant to a particular situation."

7

More afraid after the calm.

Sproul: "there is nothing on this planet scarier than to be in the presence of the Holy."

8

Clothed and in his right mind.

The man no chains could hold sits at Jesus' feet (v35) — the posture of a disciple — and is sent home as the first preacher to the Decapolis (v39).

Talk it through

1. Which of the four soils best describes how I have been hearing God's Word lately — and what is the rock or the thorn in my life right now?

2. Jesus said, "take care how you listen." What would change if I listened to Sunday's sermon or this week's reading expecting to obey it?

3. Jesus had already said, "Let us go over to the other side." What promise of His have I forgotten in my present storm?

4. The town asked Jesus to leave because He cost them their pigs. What am I afraid Jesus will cost me if I let Him all the way in?

5. Jesus sent the healed man home to tell "what great things God has done for you." Who at home most needs to hear my story?

CLOSING

Luke 8 is about hearing. The seed is the word of God, and the same word that a sower scatters on four soils calms a storm, frees a man named Legion, heals a woman who touched a tassel, and raises a girl who had died. Take care how you listen — and when every other voice says it is too late, only believe.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.