Good Dirt

Luke 8:1-15

- <u>"Listeners"</u> follow Jesus as <u>disciples</u> and prioritize <u>ministry</u>. (vv1-3)
- Jesus is imploring us to be "<u>listeners</u>." (vv4-8)

• <u>"Listening"</u> will Reveal <u>Truth;</u> Simple <u>Hearing</u> will not. (vv 9-10)

• **<u>Fruit</u>** is grown by those who "<u>listen</u>" and patiently <u>follow.</u> (vv 11-15



FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

- Brian described people as coming to church for "a Show," "for a Quick Fix," or for a "Lazy Gospel." Have you ever caught yourself slipping into one of these attitudes? How can we guard against them?
- One of the points is "Listeners' follow Jesus as disciples and prioritize ministry." (Luke 8:2-3) What does it mean for you to prioritize ministry in your daily life? (Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:23-24; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Matt 28:19-20)
- Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (Luke
 8:8) What do you think Jesus meant by this statement in the context of the parable?
- 4. How does Jesus' explanation of the parable (that it both reveals and conceals truth) help you understand why some people respond to the gospel while others don't? (Luke 8:9-10; John 6:44-45; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Romans 9:15-16; 2 Peter 3:9) What is your responsibility in this?
- "Good dirt leads to good fruit in good time." What does it mean to bear "fruit with patience," and why is patience highlighted specifically? (Luke 8:15)
- 6. In what specific ways will you use your resources (time, talents, finances) to support the proclamation of the gospel?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.... Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, <u>The Last Battle</u>