

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



What Saying Yes To God Really Means

Luke 8:15

Sunday, August 28, 2016

"And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest."

The parable of the sower makes it clear that we human beings live under significant pressure in our quest to hear and obey instruction from God. In the midst of it all we must be ready to hear and respond whether He speaks through the Scriptures, through others, by situations created by Him, or by the direct influences of the Holy Spirit.

This parable reminds us that there are many ways to fail in life, but one way to succeed. According to Jesus, we must negotiate through times of shallowness, anxiety, deceit, and temptation to successfully respond to promptings from God and experience lives of consistent blessing. The goal of the passage is to assure us that if we have a "Yes" towards God in our hearts; if we are ready to hear from Him and a readiness to respond to what we hear, no good thing will be withheld from us.

Saying yes to what we have heard means **steering clear of dishonesty, avoiding the trap of self-centeredness, and holding on as long as it takes.**

STEERING CLEAR OF DISHONESTY

Luke 8:15 - "And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent HONEST, good-hearted people..."

The term used in the text for "honest" is defined as "balanced; well adapted to meet the demands of the moment; excellent."

Daniel 6:3 - Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Honest hearts do not hide from truths about themselves that God wants to share. They do not hide behind what psychology calls defense mechanisms, such as denial and minimization. They face themselves openly and with vulnerability. They submit themselves to the full influence of truth, and are undistracted by cares and anxieties.

AVOIDING THE TRAP OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS

Luke 8:15 - "And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, GOOD-HEARTED people..."

A heart ready to hear from God is one that reaches out beyond itself into the lives of others, desiring to usher them into God's best for them. This is the essence of goodness.

Goodness carries the idea of being benevolent and useful to other people. What God speaks to your heart is not just intended for your benefit, but for that of those with whom you come into contact. If you are not willing to share what you know, do not be surprised if the Lord is sparing with what He shares with you.

HOLDING ON AS LONG AS IT TAKES

The good soil is a picture of those who are determined, even before they hear from God, to remain steadfast until they receive what He has spoken to them. They possess an honest and good heart and bear fruit with patience.

One day a man saw his friend feverishly pacing the floor like a caged lion. "What's the trouble, he asked. "The trouble is that I'm in a hurry, but God isn't!" Haven't we felt the same way many times?

We must, as **James** advises us, "**...let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**" Patience is crucial because responding to what Jesus has spoken will not speed life up for us. People have been heard to say, "I'll be glad when this situation is over so that I can get on with my life!" Little did they realize that their situation at the time was their life.

Conclusion

God expects us to develop a capacity to hear from Him over time. To be fruitful we must cling to His word with patient faith. We must develop a focus upon His promises and not our circumstances. Otherwise, we become shallow, anxious, deceived, and tempted.

So, God speaks to people who decide beforehand that they are going to do what he says. In their hearts they are saying, "Lord, if you want me to move, I'll move. If you want me to get married, I'll get married. If you want me to stay single, I'll stay single. If you want me to leave this job, I'll leave this job. Before you even tell me, my answer is 'yes.' Whatever you want me to do, I will do it."

This what saying yes to God really means.