

# The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES  
with Pastor Greg Formey



## They Hear Who Want To Hear

**James 1:19-25**

Sunday, August 7-21, 2016

One of the confusing things about how Jesus related with people is His method of hiding truths from some and revealing them to others. It bothers many that much that He taught had to be slowly uncovered and unpacked. Those disinterested in, or hostile to, the Kingdom of God were (and are) bypassed; those who were (and are) hungry and thirsty for it would be increasingly satisfied.

It must be understood that the Lord's persuasive power is so great that He could convert people against their own wills. This is not who He is by nature; He forces no one to accept Him. Revealing truth by way of parables is the wisest way to insure that those who wanted to know truth could receive it, while those who reject would have the freedom to do so.

**Luke 8:4-8**

**<sup>4</sup>One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: <sup>5</sup>"A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. <sup>6</sup>Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When he had said this, he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."**

### HEARING BUT NOT CHANGING

**Luke 8:13**

**The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.**

Ever notice that at times we can get excited after hearing God's Word, but for some reason there is no transformation? We are certain that change is a good idea, but we are not committed enough to allow the change to take place.

**James 1:22**

**But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.**

## HEARING BUT DISTRACTED

Luke 8:14 NLT

The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

Mark 4:19 KJV

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

There are three things that block our ability to hear God: Worry, faulty notions about money, and illegitimate pleasure.

### The cares of this world

Someone has said that worries are weeds. They clutter up the garden of your soul, and eventually take over your life. When you are too busy with the problems and pressures of daily living, hearing from God becomes impossible.

### The deceitfulness of riches

Money has a way of deceiving us into thinking that it will solve our problems and bring us fulfillment.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

**<sup>6</sup>Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. <sup>7</sup>After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. <sup>8</sup>So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. <sup>9</sup>But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."**

You can be so busy trying to pay your bills, so busy trying to get out of debt, so busy trying to make more, and so busy making a living that you don't make a life.

### The lust of other things

God is not against pleasure. The Scriptures remind us that He has given us richly all things to enjoy. Problems come, however, when we are so busy pursuing it that we miss out on His plans for our lives.

Ravi Zacharias defines a legitimate pleasure like this: "Anything that refreshes you without distracting you from, diminishing, or destroying your final goal is legitimate pleasure."

## Conclusion

The big question you must ask yourself is, "**Do you really want to hear from God?**"

Sensing God's direction in our lives is not automatic. We must be intentional. This begins with really wanting to change. With His help, we become focused, avoiding worry, fantasies about riches, and destructive pleasure seeking.

Next we will explore what it takes to position ourselves to hear from God, respond properly, and come into all that God dreams for us.