

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in Luke 8:4-10 on page 1. I.E. – In order to experience the blessing of a fruitful harvest, one must (1) get out in the field and (2) scatter seed broadly.

In the following section of this devotional, for all the passages through Luke 8:15, on the next page, **Mark everything that stands out to you in each passage.** You will then write your thoughts following Luke 8:15.

1. Some don't accept the offer because their hearts are **hard** and they need **cultivating**.

READ Luke 8:11-12 Mark what stands out to you.

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. ¹² The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved."

"When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart." (Jesus) [Matthew 13:19, NASB]

READ Zechariah 7:11-12a Mark what stands out to you.

¹¹ Your ancestors refused to listen to this message. They stubbornly turned away & put their fingers in their ears to keep from hearing. ¹² They made their hearts as hard as stone, so they could not hear the instructions or the messages that the Lord of Heaven's Armies had sent them by His Spirit through the earlier prophets.

What can **harden** a person's heart?

A. **Repeated sin** can harden a heart.

Hebrews 3:13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

B. **Pride or arrogance** can harden a heart.

C. **Painful circumstances** can harden a heart.

D. **Familiarity** can harden a heart.

2. Some don't accept the offer because their hearts are **shallow** and they need **deepening**.

READ Luke 8:13 Mark what stands out to you. "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."

Three common **tools** God uses to **deepen** us:

A. **Knowledge of the Bible**

B. **Christian relationships**

C. **Christian service**

3. Some don't accept the offer because their hearts are **too busy** and they need **refocusing**.

READ Luke 8:14 "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."

Too busy, not with bad things but with the **cares, pleasures, and riches** of this world.

Jesus was always encouraging people to get their **priorities** straight.

Matthew 6:33 "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need." (Jesus)

Why do some people take **advantage** of Jesus' offer of **salvation**?

READ Luke 8:15 Mark what stands out to you.

"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."

Luke 8:11-15 – "Footpath" people, like many of the religious leaders, refuse to believe God's message. "Rocky soil" people, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, believe His message but never get around to doing anything about it. "Thorn patch" people, overcome by worries and the lure of materialism, leave no room in their lives for God. "Good soil" people, in contrast to all the other groups, follow Jesus no matter what the cost.

Adapted from the Life Application Bible, New Living Translation, Large Print Edition, Tyndale, pp. 2,208

REFLECT Write your thoughts from the entire passage of Luke 8:4-15. Try to keep it personal. I am to be a worker in God's harvest fields of the world. I am to sow the message of the Gospel broadly—even where it may not seem to be a good place to sow. I have no control over the outcome. The message of what I share is to be understandable so that Satan cannot cause them to forget it. I am supposed to trust the Lord for the results.

Jesus said, "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into His fields." And when God expressed to Isaiah the need for someone to go and speak for Him, Isaiah's response was similar to what Jesus tells His followers to do: "Then I heard the Lord asking, 'Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?' I said, 'Here I am. Send me.' And He said, 'Yes, go, and say to this people ...' God is looking for people who will follow and obey Him to take His message to others in the world. [Now write your own personal thoughts.]

When the seed of the gospel falls on **receptive hearts**, it produces a harvest of **Christian character**.

Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Jesus wants to produce in us a harvest of the **fruit of the Spirit**.