

Long Story Short: Eyes & Ears

Reflect

1. The purpose of Jesus' teaching in parables was to draw seekers and searches after God's heart into the truth of what it meant to be a follow that produced fruit many times over with their lives. Are you seeking the heart of God?
2. Are you producing fruit worthy of the high calling of Christ on your life?

Read Your Bible

Mark 4: 10 – 20; Ezekiel 12:1-2; Isaiah 6:10; Jeremiah 5:21

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What do you think it means to have *Eyes to See and Ears to Hear*?
2. Why do you think many people see and hear what God says, but choose to ignore it to live the way they want to live?
3. According to this passage, why does Jesus speak in parables or stories?
4. In the Parable of the Sower, what does Jesus mean by *the Word*?
5. This passage says we hear profound things from God that we can know are true, but many times *Satan* will try to distract us, or *we* will distract ourselves with our worldly desires that get in the way of obeying God's desires for us. Do you ever find this to be the case in your life? What are some examples?
6. What are certain things in this life that can seem good at first, but can lead you down a difficult path in the long run?
7. Would you say you have *eyes to see and ears to hear* what God is saying?
8. In what ways are you honoring God and producing fruit worthy of the high calling of Jesus Christ in your life right now?

God speaks many things to us through His Word, called the Bible. Jesus taught a parable, or a story, where He said that many people hear the Word of God, but in one way or another do not obey it and live it out. Jesus taught in parables to draw seekers after God's heart into the truth of what it meant to be a follower that produced fruit, or good works, with their lives. God does not want us to produce good fruit *so that* He can love us, but rather, He wants us to produce good fruit *because* He already loves us. We honor God the most when we do good things out of the love we have for God, knowing that He loved us first.

Pray

Lord, I confess to You in my heart that I have not loved You and obeyed You as I ought. You have led me and guided me by Your Word, but I have so often chosen to follow my own path. I ask, O Lord, that You restore me to Yourself and forgive me for thinking I could make it in this life on my own. Please continue to lead me by Your grace as You transform me more and more into the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for me. It is in His name that I pray. Amen.