

April 28 – Small Group Questions - Luke 8: 4-15 “How’s Your Heart?”

Coming out of the Easter season, we recognize that in the resurrection God’s future has come into the present. One of the implications of that is that those who are in Christ are invited to live in anticipation of that coming kingdom. This leaves us with a central question. How? How are we shaped to reflect its reality? The parable answers...

Read Luke 8:4-15

A parable had a very clear framework for interpretation. They revealed something about God, the nature of the kingdom, and with one central point drove listeners to a decision. We will follow this pattern for our discussion.

1. What do we learn about God?
2. What do we learn about the nature of the kingdom? (Note: It will help here to clarify together what Jesus means by ‘the word’, and ‘the heart’)

In the parable Jesus uses a common rabbinic teaching tool showing three ways the soil doesn’t receive the seed, reflecting three ways the heart doesn’t receive the word, so that we might more clearly see the way that it does. Let’s now reflect on each heart condition in turn.

3. The hard heart is often born of closing the door on the word before the word can speak. What are some of the ways we close the door on the word before the word can speak?
4. The shallow heart roots itself in emotion, our feelings in response to changing circumstances. What is the result of such a heart condition?
5. The seed in the thorns reflects the divided heart. We have given our hearts to Jesus *and* other things. What are some of the things we give our hearts to other than Jesus? What are the results?
6. The Lord is a generous sower, and the word contains everything necessary for kingdom growth, the only invitation to us is to hear and hold fast. What is it to hear and hold fast?
7. What heart condition do you most resonate with presently? How would you like your group to pray for you in that? Spend time now praying for one another.