

## “TESTING THE SOIL”

### LUKE 8:4-15

The **greatest** news you could ever share involves the **greatest** gift anyone could ever receive flowing from the **greatest** act ever shown resulting in the **greatest** response ever demonstrated concluding in the **greatest** triad ever witnessed. That is the essence of the message you have been commissioned to take to the ends of the earth. It's not optional or elective. As you do, you will encounter numerous types of people.

#### THE CONDITION OF THOSE WHO HEAR THE GOSPEL

① F \_\_\_\_\_ (8:5,12)

Not only does he appear uninterested, he may voice his displeasure with \_\_\_\_\_ you are sharing, \_\_\_\_\_ you are sharing, and \_\_\_\_\_ you are sharing!

② F \_\_\_\_\_ (8:6,13)

The one hearing the gospel makes an emotional response, evidenced by joy and happiness. The tears are flowing and the joy is showing as she hears the gospel and appears to make a decision to accept it. However, the heart soil is only inches thick and when tribulation and persecution arise, the seed doesn't endure. It never took \_\_\_\_\_ and hence, never brought forth \_\_\_\_\_.

③ F \_\_\_\_\_ (8:7,14)

This one also hears the Word of God, the seed of the gospel, but the enticement of the world and its riches choke off any degree of implantation. The seed never sprouted and hence, never brought forth fruit. \_\_\_\_\_ was never an issue because the gods of riches and worldliness had never been dethroned.

④ F \_\_\_\_\_ (8:8,15)

Like the other three conditions, this one hears and receives the Word of God. However, unlike the other three, this one \_\_\_\_\_ it. And still further, this one brings forth fruit.

The degree of our \_\_\_\_\_ will vary due to our obedience to the Word of God. Nevertheless, every Christian should bring forth fruit (Ephesians 2:10).

#### CONCLUSION

Instead of four conditions of hearers, Jesus reduces the number to two: acceptors or rejecters; believers or unbelievers; the seeing or the blind; the listening or the hard of hearing. Where do you stand this morning?

Salvation does not depend on you. Either salvation is all of God or it is partly of man and thus not all of God. Which salvation are you embracing?