

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday 29th May 2011

Passage Luke 8:1-15

Icebreaker: What would your dream job be?

Read the Passage: Luke 8:1-15

Questions:

1. The ladies mentioned in v2-3 supported Jesus from 'their means'. What does the Bible teach us about how we are to use our financial resources? In particular, why should we give to missions?

[**Consider the following:** Proverbs 11:24-28 ; Matt 6:19-21; Luke 16:1-9; 2 Cor 8:8-15; 9:5-11; James 2:14-17]

2. Having told this parable Jesus called out (v8), "He who has ears to hear, let him hear". In Mark 4:13 (after the same parable) Jesus makes the point that if you don't understand this parable, you're not going to understand the others. Why do you think it is so crucial to get *this* parable right?

3. **Read Isaiah 55:10-11.**

What can we learn from Jesus' parable about evangelism? Why might it be both an encouragement and a challenge?

How should we judge 'success' in evangelism?

4. According to Jesus (v12-13), how and why is the devil active when seed is sown?

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Peter 5:8-9. What should our attitude be to the devil and his schemes?

5. One way the enemy can make us resistant to the word of God is by encouraging us to be selective listeners (blocking out the parts of God's word we don't like). Are you aware of any areas where that might be the case for you? How can we guard against such an attitude?

6. Why, according to vs. 13, do some people demonstrate "flash-in-the-pan Christianity"? Is that a phenomenon you are familiar with?

What should that tell us about how we should present the gospel in evangelism?

For ourselves, how can we guard against falling away in times of difficulty, or wilting under pressure?
[Consider the means to being a 'self-feeder' and the role of accountable relationships.]

7. **Read 1 John 2:15-16.** J.C. Ryle said 'Open sin is not the only thing that ruins souls' What do you think is meant by this statement in reference to the cares of this life that Jesus is talking about?

How do you know when a care or riches, or a pleasure has got to a the choking stage? Can you give any examples of thorns that have choked you? What action did you take against it?

8. **Read: John 15:1-17; Galatians 5:16-24; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Philippians 1:6.**

When it comes to maturity as a Christian and bearing fruit in our lives, what is God's part and what is ours?

9. What does it mean to bear fruit *with patience*?