

SESSION EIGHT: How can I be changed by Jesus' teaching? *Luke 8 v 4-15*
Quick, Slower and Full Route

1. The "word of God" is the teaching of Jesus, about Jesus.
The sower is Jesus.
The soil represents the different types of people who hear Jesus' teaching, which produces different responses to what he says.
2. As we hear Jesus' teaching (v 11), we need to respond to it by believing it (v 12) and sticking with living by it (v 13-14), so that we can be saved (v 12, 15). We need not only to "hear" Jesus' teaching by hearing the words he says; we need to "hear" his teaching by actually doing something about it (v 8).
3. They don't respond to Jesus' teaching at all.
4. Because the devil doesn't want people to believe in Jesus so that they can be saved (ie: have eternal life). He'd rather people continued to ignore and reject Jesus and his teaching.
5. They respond to Jesus with great joy—but they don't carry on following him.
6. "Times of testing": when life as a Christian gets tough, they stop being Christians.
7. They live as Christians for a while, but their faith ends up being choked by other things in life, so they don't keep following Jesus.
8. Worries (v 14) choke our faith because they stop us relying on Jesus, and instead suggest to us that how life goes is all up to us, not God.
Riches can choke our faith because we live to gain or keep wealth instead of living Jesus' way. Money becomes more important to us than Jesus.
Pleasures choke our faith because we can end up chasing them, and prioritizing them, instead of Jesus.
9. They yield a huge crop. Just as soil exists to produce a crop, so this type of human produces and enjoys real life.
10. They don't only hear the word, they "retain" it (v 15). They make following Jesus and living his way their priority above all other things, even when it's hard.