“A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART”

Luke 8:4–21

Key Verse: 8:15

1. Describe the parable Jesus told the large crowd (4–8a). At the end, what did he call out? (8b) How did the disciples respond? (9) What did Jesus tell them? (10a) What does it mean to be given “the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God”? (1:77; 13:28–30) How did Jesus explain why he used parables with the crowds? (10b)
2. How did Jesus interpret the core of his parable for his disciples? (11) Note how he repeats the word “believe” (12,13); what is the word’s role in this? (1Th2:13) What does it mean to listen to God’s word “like a path”? What makes people like a path? (Ex8:15; Da5:20a; Heb3:13) When people are like a path, what happens? (12b)
3. What is the main problem of people like rocky ground? (13) What does it mean to have a “root”? (Col2:6–7) Why does God send “the time of testing”? (1Pe1:6–7) What is the main problem of people like a thorny place? (14; 12:15,29–31) What does it mean not to mature?
4. Read verse 15. What does it mean to listen to God’s word like good soil? (Ps119:47–48) To have “a noble and good heart”? (6:45; 1Ti1:5) To “retain” the word? (6:46–48; Jas1:21–22) To “persevere”? (Jas1:2–4; 2Pe1:5–8) What is the “crop”? (Col1:6,10) How does the fact that there is “good soil” inspire us to share God’s word?
5. How does Jesus’ parable of a lamp on a stand complement his explanation of his parable of the soils? (16–17) Based on it, what warning does he give? (18) What did he teach when his mother and brothers came to see him? (19–21) What does he want us to learn from this?