**Going deeper in Luke 8:4-15**

**INTRODUCTION**

This parable is included in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). It has been called a watershed parable because in it are many of the characteristics and messages included in a majority of parables. As you read and pray over it keep in mind that when Jesus uses parables He did it with the intention of making us uncomfortable with our easy answers about God and the mystery of the Kingdom of God.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

4 A great crowd from many cities came to hear Jesus and he told them this parable. 5 “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering his seed some fell on the path and it was trampled and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock and when it came up, it withered away because it did not have any roots. 7 Some fell among the thorns and as the thorns grew up with it the thorns choked the plants. 8 And other seed fell on good soil. It came up and produced a crop a hundred times what was sown.” Then he called out, “He who has ears let him hear.” 9 Then His disciples asked him, “What does the parable mean?” 10 He told them, “You have been given the chance to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, but even with that many will not understand it. 11 Now in the parable the seed is the word of God. 12 The seeds that fell on the path are the ones who hear the word then the devil takes it so they won’t believe and be saved. 13 The ones that fell on the rock are those that hear and receive the word with joy, but have no deep roots. They believe for a while, but in a time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among the thorns are those that hear the word, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares, riches, and pleasures of life and they do not mature. 15 But the seed that falls on the good soil are those who with good and noble heart heard the word and held on to it and with steadfast endurance produced a crop.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. This parable is included in all three synoptic gospels (this only happens for three parables) signifying its importance. Why do you think it is so important?

2. Who is the farmer or sower? Why does he scatter the seed in all these places rather than just the good soil?

3. Why is the kingdom of God a mystery? What does that suggestion about our assumptions tell us about the nature of God and His kingdom?

4. What does this parable tell you about the nature of God?

5. What role does the “heart” play? What kind of heart? Who shapes our hearts?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for the seed that He planted in your life.

\*Thank the Lord for those He used in this process.

\*Ask the Lord to protect you from the power of Satan and the draw of the world.

\*Ask the Lord to help you to grow.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord in His grace sows the seed of faith everywhere. Will you give Him thanks for planting that seed in your life and rely on Him to grow you up into in the fullness of life this week?