

Sunday – Missionary Jay Stokes

Discuss

- 1) Review Luke 8:4-15
- 2) How are you listening to God's Word? Do you hold it fast and bear fruit? Or do you take it for granted?
- 3) What steps can you take to be a better listener of God's Word?
- 4) How can we help each other hold it fast and bear fruit in patience? (Luke 8:15)

Closing

How can we help each other apply these truths our lives this week? Take time to pray especially for the Stokes' missionary team and the Dem tribe. Praise God for his work in that tribe and in that part of the world.

Close in prayer.

Scriptures from the Sermon

Saturday

2 Tim. 2:1-13

You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in the concerns of civilian life; he seeks to please the recruiter. ⁵ Also, if anyone competes as an athlete, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ The hardworking farmer ought to be the first to get a share of the crops. ⁷ Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in

everything. Keep your attention on Jesus Christ as risen from the dead and descended from David. This is according to my gospel. ⁹I suffer for it to the point of being bound like a criminal, but God's message is not bound. ¹⁰This is why I endure all things for the elect: so that they also may obtain salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

For if we have died with Him,
we will also live with Him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with Him;
if we deny Him, He will also deny us;
¹³ if we are faithless, He remains faithful,
for He cannot deny Himself.

Remind them of these things, charging them before God^[a] not to fight about words; this is in no way profitable and leads to the ruin of the hearers.

Eph. 6:10-11

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by His vast strength. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the tactics^[a] of the Devil.

Romans 6:3-5

Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way^[a] of life. ⁵ For if we have been joined with Him in the likeness of His death, we will certainly also be^[b] in the likeness of His resurrection.

Romans 14:1

Accept anyone who is weak in faith,^[a] but don't argue about doubtful issues.

Luke 8:4-15; 18

As a large crowd was gathering, and people were flocking to Him from every town, He said in a parable: ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. As he was sowing, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the sky ate it up. ⁶ Other seed fell on the rock; when it sprang up, it withered, since it lacked moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns; the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good ground; when it sprang up, it

produced a crop: 100 times what was sown.” As He said this, He called out, “Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!

⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, “What does this parable mean?” ¹⁰ So He said, “The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given for you to know, but to the rest it is in parables, so that

Looking they may not see,
and hearing they may not understand.^[a]

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable:^[b] The seed is the word of God. ¹² The seed along the path are those who have heard and then the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the seed on the rock are those who, when they hear, welcome the word with joy. Having no root, these believe for a while and depart in a time of testing. ¹⁴ As for the seed that fell among thorns, these are the ones who, when they have heard, go on their way and are choked with worries, riches, and pleasures of life, and produce no mature fruit. ¹⁵ But the seed in the good ground—these are the ones who,^[c] having heard the word with an honest and good heart, hold on to it and by enduring, bear fruit.

V. 18 Therefore take care how you listen. For whoever has, more will be given to him; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him.”