

# **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CAMEROON**

## **DONGA MANTUNG PRESBYTERY**

### **SERMON PREACHED BY REV TITATANG KINGSLEY ON “HEARING GOD’S WORD”**

**SELECTED PSALM: 24**

**TEXT: LUKE 8:1-21**

Prayer of Illumination: Lord our Heavenly Father, we are grateful that you are our God from ages past and that you continue to guide us through your word of life and truth. Help us as we meditate on it today that our lives shall be renewed in connection to the plants around us; through Jesus Christ your Son our redeemer. Amen

#### Background of the Text

One of the major themes in the whole of Luke 8 is how to get faith and use it in the everyday experiences.

Faith equals hearing and receiving the Word of God into an understanding heart.

Examination follows later to see whether faith is at work.

Dear Friends by the way, everybody lives by faith in something or someone. The difference between the Christian believer and the unsaved person is not that one has faith and the other does not. They both have faith but the difference is in the object of their faith, for faith is only as good as the object. The Christian believer has put his faith in Jesus Christ and he bases that faith on the Word of God.

Beloved in the Lord, the environment could be compared to the Word of God sowed into the heart of God's Children every day of their living.

This morning I will love that we dwell on the Theme: Hearing God's Word

#### Brief Introduction

Jesus' ministry in Galilee saw his followers including some women going along with Him and supporting all he did for humanity. He blessed people with many gifts. The New Testament Church Leaders were supported by gifts from friends (Read 2 Timothy 1:16-18) and from Churches (Read Phil 4:15-17) and Paul worked for his ministry (2 Thess 3:6-10).

To hear is much more profound spiritually because it must be defended at all cost. As I said before, the ways Jesus taught could be compared to the plants of the field. We have therefore decided to approach this Text from the following sub-headings below:

-Hear and Receive the Word:-From the onset, Jesus Christ is the Sower but the sower represents any of God's people who share the Word of God(Cf John 4:35-38).God's Word is the seed and this possesses life and power(Cf Heb 4:12).If one hears the Word with an eye of faith, the Word takes deep root into the heart. Obviously the results will be visible.

-Jesus used Parables to teach and here we see the outcome of four different audiences like it could be the same with us.

The seed without the soil is fruitless, and the soil without the seed is almost useless. Our human hearts are like soils-once it is prepared, it can receive the seed that depends on the nature of the soil.

Dear Friends in the race,

Jesus focused his teaching on four different kinds of hearts, three of which did not produce any fruit the proof of this is fruit and not merely hearing the Word or making a profession of faith in Christ.

Exposition of Lesson according to the different soils

-The Hard Soil(Luke 8:5,12):-Hearers of the Word that do not last could be compared to the devil's friends. We could ask the question What made the heart hard? The 44 wayside was the path that ran through the common field, separating the plots; and the foot traffic hardened the soil. Whatever goes into the ear or eye finally enters into the heart, so be careful who is allowed to "walk on your heart."

-The Shallow Soil(Luke 8:6,13):-This soil illustrates the emotional hearer who quickly responds to the message, but his interest wanes and he does not continue(John 8:31-32).

-In many parts of the Holy Land you find a substratum of limestone covered with a thin layer of soil. The shoot can grow up, but the roots cannot go down, the sun withers the rootless plant. The sun represents the testing that comes to a professing believer to prove the faith. Sun is good for plants if they have roots. Persecution can deepen the roots of a true Christian, but it only exposes the shallowness of the false Christians.

-The Crowded Soil(Luke 8:7,14):-This soil illustrates the person who does not repent and "weed out" the things that hinder the harvest. There is enough soil so the roots can go down, but not enough room for the plant to grow up and produce fruit. The plant is crowded out and the fruit is choked."Cares, riches, and the pleasures of this life" are like weeds in a garden that keep the soil from being fruitful. The person with the "Crowded heart" comes closest to salvation, but he still does not bring forth "Fruit to Perfection."

-The Good Soil(Luke 8:8,15):-This is the good soil that is fruitful. It illustrates the individual who hears the Word, understands it, receives it within, is truly saved, and proves it by patiently producing fruits(1Thess 2:13;1Peter 1:22-25). All believers somehow produce fruit of different kinds in life. That fruit may include winning others to Christ(Rom 1:13),money donated to support God's work(Rom 15:25-28),Good works as well(Col 1:10),Christian character(Gal 5:22-23),and others praise to the Lord(Heb 13:15).Jesus was out to encourage the people to choose to be on the side of the good soil because the results were going to be amazing. Sin was too strong but he kept on.

Hear and Share the Word(Luke 8:16-18):-Jesus' teaching is a light that must be allowed to shine so that the sinners may be saved.

Jesus used parables to teach heavenly blessings to God's children. His stories matched with daily realities and the people understood .Usually, a parable starts off as a picture that is familiar to the listeners but as you carefully consider the picture, it becomes a mirror in which you see yourself, and many people do not like to see themselves. This explains why some of our Lord's listeners became angry when they heard his parables, and even tried to kill him.

But if we see ourselves as needy sinners and ask for help, then the mirror becomes a window through which we see God and His grace. To understand a parable and benefit from it demands Honesty and Humility on our part, and many of our Lord's hearers lacked both.

When we hear the word of God, we have an obligation to share with others. We must be sowers, light-bearers, and transmitters of God's truth(1 Thess 1:5-8).The more we share, the more its results.

-Hear and Obey(Luke 8:19-21):-Jesus taught his family and audiences what it meant to have a spiritual foundation that is Hearing God's Word goes with keeping it.

-It must be put into practice else we make a fool of ourselves(James 1:22-27).

-We must take heed what we hear and how we hear as followers of Christ.

## Conclusion

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have been on the move to give in-depth Biblical readings to the text drawn from Luke but this conclusion should help us walk the journey of faith in a stormy world.

Listening to the wrong things, or the right things with the wrong attitude, will rob us of truth and blessing. If we are faithful to receive the Word and share it, God will give us more; but if we fail to let our light shine, we will lose what we have. It is a solemn thing to hear the Word of God.

Our environment needs speedy rethought and preservation for posterity. We live because of the greenery and we must do everything on our part to make it holy. If we hear and continue to teach with faith and make some follow up, the results will be wonderful to the Glory of the Lord and for the welfare of His children.

The ball is ready for us to kick. Go and into the world and teach them what shall bring redemption. Amen

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