

## Lesson 2 - THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE SOWER - Luke 8:1-15

### Introduction:

- A. As we continue to look at the Theory of Personal Work/Evangelism - **Luke 8** provides for us a great learning tool as to the perspective/outlook of the sower/farmer.
  1. Discuss here - what individual perspectives each has of their glass jar in relation to their study of **Luke 8**.
- B. Gaining a good perspective/outlook ahead of the work or task to be performed is of uttermost importance/crucial to the way in which we approach it.
  1. John Tesh - had this to say in his radio segment Sunday - that many have goals set but have no system in tact.
  2. His broadcast emphasized the importance of not being goal driven but system driven.
- C. Maintaining A Positive Attitude As Sowers Of The Word is a MUST in personal work.
  1. Importance Of Proper Perspectives...
    - a. Wrong Perspectives - negative attitude = failure
    - b. Right Perspectives - positive attitude = success
  2. Are we guilty of “sinking thinking”?
- D. Let's Read The Parable Of The Sower...
  1. The parable told **Luke 8:4-8**
    - a. **Luke 8:4-8** (NKJV) — 4 And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”
  2. The parable explained **Luke 8:11-15**
    - a. **Luke 8:11-15** (NKJV) — 11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.
  3. WHAT DO WE LEARN with regards to our PERSPECTIVE as a SOWER

### II. Perspectives For The Sower

- A. The power is in the Word
  1. God's Word is powerful **Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12**
    - a. **Romans 1:16** (NKJV) — 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.
    - b. **Hebrews 4:12** (NKJV) — 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
  2. Conversion requires God's Word **1Peter 1:23; 2:2**
    - a. **1 Peter 1:23** (NKJV) — 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,
    - b. **1 Peter 2:2** (NKJV) — 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may

- grow thereby,
3. We must present the whole gospel **1Cor. 15:1-4; Rom. 2:4**
    - a. **1 Corinthians 15:1–4** (NKJV) — 1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,
    - b. **Romans 2:4** (NKJV) — 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?
- B. Results depend on the soil
1. If rejected, the soil is at fault **Matt. 10:14; Acts 13:46**
    - a. **Matthew 10:14** (NKJV) — 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.
    - b. **Acts 13:46** (NKJV) — 46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.
  2. We succeed every time we sow the seed!
  3. Conversion is “icing” on the cake
- C. We are simply seed throwers
1. We don’t have to prepare the soil **Lk 8:5-15**
    - a. **Luke 8:5–15** (NKJV) — 5 “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” 9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” 10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ 11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.
  2. God gives the increase **1Cor. 3:5-7**
    - a. **1 Corinthians 3:5–7** (NKJV) — 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.
  3. He can use defective sowers **Phil. 1:15-18; 1Cor. 2:1-5**
    - a. **Philippians 1:15–18** (NKJV) — 15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether

in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

- b. **1 Corinthians 2:1–5** (NKJV) — 1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- D. Often, one sows and another reaps
1. As Jesus taught His disciples **John 4:35-38**
    - a. **John 4:35–38** (NKJV) — 35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! 36 And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. 37 For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”
    2. We may never see the fruit of our labors
    3. We may make it easier for others **1Cor. 15:58**
      - a. “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” ~ **1Cor. 15:58**
      - b. Song - Are you sowing the seed of the Kingdom brother?....
- E. God’s providence is at work
1. He knows the searching heart **2Chron. 16:9; Acts 18:9-11**
    - a. **2 Chronicles 16:9** (NKJV) — 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.”
    - b. **Acts 18:9–11** (NKJV) — 9 Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; 10 for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.
  2. Those who hunger will be filled **Matthew 5:6; 7:7-8**
    - a. **Matthew 5:6** (NKJV) — 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
    - b. **Matthew 7:7–8** (NKJV) — 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
  3. We are God’s fellow workers **1Cor. 3:5-9**
    - a. **1 Corinthians 3:5–9** (NKJV) — 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.
- F. God opens doors for prepared workers - but personal workers must be ready to go in!
1. Doors of opportunity **1Cor. 16:9; 2Cor. 2:12**
    - a. **1 Corinthians 16:9** (NKJV) — 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.
    - b. **2 Corinthians 2:12** (NKJV) — 12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened to me by the Lord,

2. He uses those who are prepared **2 Timothy 2:19-21**
  - a. **2 Timothy 2:19–21** (NKJV) — 19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.
3. Both individuals and congregations **Revelation 3:8**
  - a. **Revelation 3:8** (NKJV) — 8 “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

G. Prayer is the catalyst

1. That jump starts God’s providence **Col. 4:3**
  - a. **Colossians 4:3** (NKJV) — 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,
2. Between praying searcher and servant **Acts 10:1-4,9**
  - a. **Acts 10:1–4** (NKJV) — 1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, 2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. 3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” 4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.
  - b. **Acts 10:9** (NKJV) — 9 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.
3. Do we pray, “Lead me to some soul today”?

H. We reap what we sow

1. As taught by Paul **2 Cor. 9:6**
  - a. **2 Corinthians 9:6** (NKJV) — 6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
2. To reap more, we must sow more
3. Goals should be how many taught, not how many are converted
4. That’s why we must be system driven not goal driven.....

III. In Conclusion:

- A. Eight Perspectives For the Sower once again are:
  1. The power is in the Word not in us
  2. Results depend on the soil
  3. We are simply seed throwers
  4. Often, one sows and another reaps
  5. God’s providence is at work
  6. God opens doors for prepared workers
  7. Prayer is the catalyst
  8. We reap what we sow
- B. Have these 8 perspectives been visible in your glass jar?