

Luke 8:6, 13 Hindrances to Hearing: Shallow Enthusiasm

Fruitful hearing of God's Word is hindered by shallow enthusiasm.

How can we promote depth of soul for gospel roots to grow (remembering that it all depends on God's grace)?

#### 4 Godly Qualities to Replace 4 Ungodly Counterfeits

- 1) Replace shallow enthusiasm with **deep affection for Jesus and His Word**.
  - a) "Receive it with joy"—joy that arises from love of Christ and of the truth is good; joy that arises from self-infatuation is empty
  - b) Counterfeit of shallow enthusiasm: Crowds in Jerusalem withered between Palm Sunday and Good Friday (Luke 19:37-38; cf. 23:18-23)
  - c) Godly Quality of Joy of Love: The Holy Spirit produces joy in believers as an aspect of love (Gal. 5:22)
    - i) John, Elizabeth (Luke 1:41ff.), Mary (Luke 1:46ff), Zechariah (Luke 1:67ff.), Simeon (Luke 2:25ff.), Anna (Luke 2:36ff.)
    - ii) Attachment to Jesus above all others (Luke 14:25-27)
- 2) Replace glib entertainment with **meaningful nourishment in Jesus' Word**.
  - a) "no moisture . . . no root"—root metaphor applied to person (*these* have no root), not to seed of gospel; person cannot grow without nourishment
  - b) Counterfeit of glib entertainment: Herod Antipas was delighted to receive Jesus so that Jesus could perform for his pleasure (23:8)
  - c) Godly Quality of Meaningful Nourishment: The Holy Spirit creates a holy craving (Ezek. 36:27) for Divine morsels (sound doctrine, 1 Timothy 1:10; Titus 2:1)
    - i) Like newborn infants desire milk (1 Peter 2:2-3);
    - ii) Like mature people desire meat (Hebrews 5:12-14)
- 3) Replace the desire to be comfortable with **the desire to be comforted by Jesus' Word**.
  - a) "They believe for a while, but in time of testing"—"for a while" is an easy time in contrast to the "time of testing" (compare Mark 4 where the terms "tribulation" and "persecution" clarify the sort of testing in view for followers of Jesus)
  - b) Counterfeit of comfortableness: Samaritan Village (Luke 9:51-53); "Volunteer" Disciple (Luke 9:57-58); Peter (Luke 22:54ff.)
  - c) Godly Quality of Receiving Comfort (old meaning: to strengthen either mentally or physically): God appoints trials so that we can experience His strength in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
    - i) The Prayers of Jesus: Peter (Luke 22:31-32; Acts 5:27-33)
    - ii) Means of Grace: Jesus (Luke 22:41-44)
    - iii) The Word of God: "Therefore comfort one another with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- 4) Replace love of convenience with **the grace of perseverance in Jesus' Word**.
  - a) "they fall away"—testing discloses true and false faith
  - b) Counterfeit of love of convenience: Judas (Luke 22:3)
  - c) Godly Quality of Grace of perseverance: Endurance is a gift that God gives by the Spirit through His Word
    - i) Paul's perseverance in the ministry of the Word (Acts 20:18-24)

- ii) Paul's Instruction to Timothy for the Perseverance of the Church—Give them the Word! (1 Timothy 4:6-16)