

## Ears to Hear Luke 8:1-3,19-21

Four Questions for you.

**Question 1:** Is your declaration of being born again authentic? This is a question that we all need to answer either today or in the future when every knee with bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Some will be forced to do it. Some will do it because they want to. Which category do we fit into? **Matt. 7:21-23.**

When God teaches us something that we should be doing do we resist or rebel against it or do we walk in it? "Because You say so I will." Obedience to His commands is how we prove we belong to Him. Are you walking in the truth as He reveals it to you in your devotional time, during a sermon or teaching time, or during your prayer time?

**Question 2:** Does your heart receive the word of God? As a farmer makes sure the ground is ready to be seeded, did you make sure this morning that your heart was ready to receive the planting of the word of the Lord? Farmers have no choice but to wait, the soil must be warm, as well as fertile. You must choose each day to prepare your heart to accept God's word. Did you come expecting to hear from God, to be instructed, and to receive teaching that will blossom in your life? Do you have a heart that is receptive? Without the ground being prepared, without your heart being prepared, there will be no harvest. If hear God's word and reject it you can't cross your fingers and hope it all works out. We laugh to think that a farmer would scatter all his seed in an unprepared field and trust God for a miracle yet many of us are doing that in our relationship with God; we disobey or reject His word and then 'hope' it all works out. How often do we ask others to pray for a miracle and yet ignore our rebellion to the Word? God will not be mocked; a man shall reap what he sows. **Gal. 6:7**

**Question 3:** Can God plant you where He wants you? A seasoned farmer or master builder does not need a hireling to come along and give them instructions. We are expert at telling God what we want, are we equally expert at letting Him tell us what He wants? Two things to remember; it is impossible to go through life without the opportunity to be offended; and you don't get to go to the church of your choice. If we are truly spirit filled and led by God then He plants us in the church He wants. That also means that we don't have the right to leave when we want. Can He plant you where He wants? Are you willing to die to your own agenda, your own wants and desires? **John 12:23-26** in your obedience to the Lord are you looking for the harvest? What you have in mind for you pales in comparison to what God has in mind for you? Yet we resist His plans because they take us out of our comfort zone. Suffering always precedes blessing yet we continue to look for a blessing that doesn't interfere with our plans and schedules. It comes down to a matter of the will; "I will not change my schedule; I will not change my plans." Are our schedules and plans so fixed that we can't have a holy interruption?

**Question 4:** Do you share with others what He teaches you? We can repeat what someone else says or what they have learned. But can we share what God is teaching us, some revelation we are walking through? There is a difference between repeating insight and testifying to something we are walking in. It

doesn't mean that we've got it perfect, just that we're proving it as we go. It's time for the church to put away the books, and commentaries and devotionals and pull out the Book. It's time to commit to gleaning some nugget from the chapter or section that we are reading and not give up until we do! We should each be able to leave here with a personal take home. It's about being fed by the Bread of Life. Do we have something to share with others or are we just going through the motions, putting in time? When we come together in God's house it's an all you can eat buffet. We are being fed from God's word; if we have ears to hear. When we hear what Jesus is saying and then walk in it He claims us as family. He is looking for us to not only hear what he is saying but to do it. **James 1:22** Don't curse the stinky stuff that comes into your life; fertilizer helps produce a better harvest. God comes and invades our lives looking for a return on His word. How is the soil in your heart?