

Sunday morning, October 18, 2020
How Do You Respond to the Bible?
Luke 8:1–21

- I. Hear Christ's Parable Lk. 8:4–8a

- II. Hear Christ's Explanation Lk. 8:9–15
 - A. Response of Unbelief Lk. 8:11–12

 - B. Response of Temporary Joy Lk. 8:13

 - C. Response of a Temporary Beginning Lk. 8:14; Matt. 6:24; 2 Tim. 4:10

 - D. Response of Faith and Obedience Lk. 8:15
 - 1. With Faith

 - 2. With Patience

 - 3. With Fruit
 - a. Bearing Fruit Is Christ's Promise Lk. 8:18; Jn. 15:16

 - b. Bearing Fruit Is Christ's Command Lk. 8:15–18; Col. 1:10; Lk. 3:8–9; Matt. 5:16

 - c. Bearing Fruit Is Christ's Assurance Lk. 8:19–21; Mark 6:3

- III. Hear Christ's Challenge Lk. 8:8b, 18
 - A. Regularly Read and Hear

 - B. Humbly Seek Jas. 1:21; Ps. 19:10–11

 - C. Sincerely Pray Prov. 2:3–5; Ps. 119:18

 - D. Carefully Apply Ps. 1; 1 Cor. 14:20

QUOTES

“Feelings alone are not sufficient. What we need is a firm grasp on the realities of Christ’s saving work: his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. The only faith that endures is the one that is based on who Jesus is and what he has done, not one that is based on how we happen to feel.”
Ryken

“There is nothing more disintegrating than people who have been merely ‘brushed’ by Christianity, people who have been sown with a thousand seeds but in whose lives there is no depth and no rootage. Therefore, they fall when the first whirlwind comes along. It is the half-Christians who always flop in the face of the first catastrophe that happens, because their dry intellectuality and their superficial emotionalism do not stand the test. So even that which they think they have is taken away from them.”
Helmut Thielicke

“Demanding something extraordinary, novel, and exciting, we look away from what God is doing through ordinary preaching, water, wine, and bread, and focus on what we are doing to capture the headlines. Like a good parent, God knows that if we had all the cotton candy we wanted, we would not only be sick but would miss out on the dinner he has prepared. . . . Most people over the centuries have become Christians by being baptized, catechized, taking Communion, hearing sermons, talking to their parents, grandparents, and other elders in the faith, and then bringing others into this lifelong discipleship through their witness, until they are comforted by their pastor and other believers on their deathbed. However this is too ordinary” . . . On an average month of Sundays, every believer *should* find church a little boring. I find marriage a little boring. And raising four children. And going to work every day. . . . If we made all of our decisions based on how highly it scored today on the fun meter, we would never commit ourselves to relationships and processes that take a long time to see any results. Our culture is falling apart over this one. The result is that we demand cargo ships full of meaningful, life-altering, transformative, explosive, and unique experiences every day and are losing our appreciation for the role that a child’s smile has in the grand scheme of things Imagine what would happen if we determined what we would learn, teach, or endure on the basis of what William James called ‘its cash- value in experiential terms.’ Children would not learn the alphabet, the multiplication tables, primary colors, or the basic grammar of the Christian faith. School would be recess all day: filled with games and free play. There would be no great food, friendships, marriages, families, buildings, farms, athletes, or concerts. Ironically the pursuit of instant gratification and perpetual amusement creates its own self-enclosed world of boredom. Spoiled children (of whatever age) are never satisfied.”
Michael Horton, in *The Gospel Driven Life*

“Thousands of things, which in themselves are innocent, become, when followed to excess, little better than soul-poisons, and helps to hell. Open sin is not the only thing that ruins souls. In the midst of our families, and in the pursuit of our lawful callings, we have need to be on our guard. Except we watch and pray, these temporal things may rob us of heaven, and smother every sermon we hear. We may live and die thorny-ground hearers.”
J C Ryle