

Review:

Luke 8:3 ...and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

Giving: The New Testament church leaders were supported by:

1. *gifts from friends* --2 **Timothy 1:16 - 18 (NLT)**

¹⁶May the Lord show special kindness to Onesiphorus and all his family because he often visited and encouraged me. He was never ashamed of me because I was in chains. ¹⁷When he came to Rome, he searched everywhere until he found me.

¹⁸May the Lord show him special kindness on the day of Christ's return. And you know very well how helpful he was in Ephesus.

2. *donations from churches*--- **Philippians 4:15 - 17 (NLT)**

¹⁵As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. ¹⁶Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. ¹⁷I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

3. Paul supported himself by his own labor----**2 Thessalonians 3:7 - 9 (NLT)**

⁷For you know that you ought to imitate us. We were not idle when we were with you. ⁸We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you.

⁹We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow.

An important key about giving: Builds Faith = 1 Kings 17:8 - 16 (NLT)

TODAY'S TEXT: LUKE 8: 4-15 *three admonitions Jesus gave His followers.*

- Hear and receive the Word (vv. 4-15) = Parable of the Sower (Soils)
- Hear and share the Word (vv. 16-18) = Parable of the Lamp
- Hear and obey the Word (vv. 19-21) = Instructions to Jesus' followers

Monday Morning Moment: *“May your actions speak much louder than your words!”*

James 1:22 (NASB) ²²But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude (*deceive*) themselves.

Parable of the Sower -- LUKE 8: 4-15 (NASB)

⁴When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶“Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷“Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. ⁸“Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.” As He said these things, He would call out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹His disciples *began* questioning Him as to what this parable meant. ¹⁰And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is* in parables, so 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 beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.** ¹³“**Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.** ¹⁴“**The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to maturity.** ¹⁵“**But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.**

Hear and receive the Word (vv. 4-15).

The Sower:

Jesus Christ, but the sower represents any of God’s people who share the Word of God (John 4:35-38). The wise and prudent are blind to truths that are easy for the babes to understand (Matt. 11:20-26).

The Seed:

The Word of God, for, like seed, the Word has life and power (Heb. 4:12) and can produce spiritual fruit (Gal. 5:22-23). The fault does not lie with the sower or the seed.

The Soil:

Human heart. But the seed can do nothing until it is planted (John 12:24). When a person hears and understands the Word, then the seed is planted in the heart.

Jesus described four different kinds of hearts, three of which did not produce any fruit. The proof of salvation is *fruit* and not merely hearing the Word or making a profession of faith in Christ. Jesus had already made that clear in His “Sermon on the Mount” (Luke 6:43-49; also note Matt. 7:20).