

Plant the Seed
Blessed Assurance – Part 1
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Make sure your heart is good soil (Luke 8:4-8, 11-15)

Luke 8:4-8 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." NIV84

Luke 8:11-15 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. NIV84

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ESV

3 Reasons the Fruit Doesn't Grow

1. It gets snatched before it goes into the ground (8:12)

Luke 8:12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

2. It doesn't take root (8:13)

Luke 8:13 Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

3. It gets choked out (8:14)

Luke 8:14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

3 Big Acts in the Cosmic Drama

Act 1: Creation

It all starts with a loving creator God

God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world. He made us rulers of the world under Him.

Revelation 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased." NLT

Act 2: The Fall

We all reject the ruler – God – by trying to run life our own way without Him.

But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.

Romans 3:10-12 No one is righteous— not even one. ¹¹ No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. ¹² All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." NLT

What will God do about this rebellion?

God won't let us rebel forever.

God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgment.

Hebrews 9:27 And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment NLT

Act 3: Redemption

God's justice sounds hard. But...

Because of his love, God sent His Son into the world: the man Jesus Christ.

Jesus always lived under God's rule.

Yet by dying in our place, He took our punishment and brought forgiveness.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. NIV84

God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world.

Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life, and will return to judge

1 Peter 1:3 In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead NIV84

The Two Ways to Live

A. Our way:

- Reject the ruler – God
- Try to run life our own way

Result:

- Condemned by God
- Facing death and judgment

B. God's New Way:

- Submit to Jesus as our ruler
- Rely on Jesus' death and resurrection

Result:

- Forgiven by God
- Given eternal life

** From "Two Ways To Live" by Mathias Media*

Make Sure the Seed is Planted in You (Romans 10:9-10)

John 1:12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ESV

My Next Step Today is to...

- For the first time, I will receive Jesus as my ruler and receive His forgiveness
- Come back next week to find out how to identify the fruit of salvation