

LIFE Community Sermon Notes



Curing Affluenza

Luke 8:4-15

4While 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. 6Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8Still 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."

9His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

" 'though seeing, they may not see;

though hearing, they may not understand.'^[a]

11"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12Those 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. 13Those 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. 14The 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. 15But 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.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Jan 6

Big Idea: When we clear the clutter that demands our attention and affection, we make room for God to move in and do something new.

Key Verse:

Luke 4:14

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.

Opening Question: What is the level of clutter in your life?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passages.

Discussion Questions

1. **Discuss: “One of the most important steps you make to restore your soul is to de-clutter your life” Bryan Wilkerson.**
2. **According to the parable, what are the things that choked the seed that grew in the third soil?**
3. **Which of these things are evident in your life?**
4. Bryan described these things as being symptoms of “affluenza”. Do you have “affluenza”?
5. **Bryan presented clearing the clutter as the cure for “affluenza”. Clearing the clutter is a mark of simplicity in living. Bryan went on to suggest four first steps to clearing the clutter: a) clean a closet (or car or room); b) give something away; c) make a budget and d) declare a fast. Which of these were you challenged to do this week? Have you done it? How did you do it?**
6. The breakout book used in the Sunday classes asked “How would a simplified life impact your family?” How would simplified living impact your life and those of the people around you?
7. Spend time in prayer together and pray for what “space in your soul that becomes conducive to spiritual growth” might feel, look and be like. Commit to holding each other accountable to clearing the clutter.

Leaders Notes

1. *This series is followed up on Sundays with breakout classes. The booklets are called “Making Space for the Shepherd. Booklets from these classes are available online or in the office for the leader. There are some great follow up exercises in the booklet to keep your group on track.*
2. *There is a resource library in 2 Militia with some good resources to use.*
3. *Additional resources on Simplicity, Solitude and Silence:*
 - a) *Invitation to Solitude and Silence—Ruth Haley Barton*
 - b) *Celebration of Discipline—Richard Foster*
 - c) *Simplify—Paul Borthwick*