

**Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**The Hidden Revealed**

*Luke 8:16-21*

This passage comes on the back of the parable of the sower.

The 'word of God' is the times which God speaks to us through the Bible or through prayer.

The parable of the sower teaches us that the word of God is powerful and effective at achieving whatever it sets out to achieve. All it needs to do is find a slightly willing heart – a heart that isn't entirely tied up in success, accomplishment, fear, riches or comfort - and it will produce fruit. It will bring something out of nothing in the character of a person, making joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and faith.

The implication of the parable is this: do whatever you can to get yourself before the word of God. Break down all the paths that need to be broken and do all the weeding that needs to be done. Cling to what God says, trust it, receive from him and be transformed.

In today's reading, Jesus shows us why this is so important.

We're made so that our character (our hearts) shine out in our actions. We might be able to cover up what is in our hearts for a time with charisma, good works in public and keeping things secret, but it is only a matter of time before what is in our hearts will come out.

Nothing will stay secret forever.

Thus, says Jesus, we should 'pay attention to how we listen' to the word of God. Scheming and planning won't get us by; we need transformation. Those who miss this and continue with unhealth in their hearts will lose the reputation, comfort and security they have built up for themselves, says Jesus. But for those who turn to God, listen to his word, allow it to transform them, will receive an abundance of peace, hope and love.

### **Questions for group discussion**

1. What is your initial reaction to this passage? Do you find it confronting or encouraging?
2. What do you think stops you from hearing what God is saying to you through the Bible or prayer?
3. Take a moment of silence:
  - a. What stood out to you in the message?
  - b. How can you respond?