

Session 1. Expectations

Message Outline

Four Responses to the Word of God

- a) Unresponsive.
- b) Enthusiastic.
- c) Distracted.
- d) Receptive.

Four Applications

1. Stick with the Proper Seed
2. Guard Your Heart
3. Exercise Patience
4. Trust the Outcome of Your Ministry to God

Discussion Questions

1. How have you seen the Word of God have different effects in people in your life or ministry?
2. How do you respond to the fact that Jesus Himself experienced a wide range of responses to His ministry?
3. How do the “cares of the world” and the “deceitfulness of riches” distract people from truly receiving the Word of God? How do they distract you?
4. Pastor Colin said, “Telling a person that he or she is a Christian when they do not love, trust, or serve Jesus Christ is one of the most spiritually damaging things we can do.” Why is this so spiritually damaging?
5. “One of the greatest responsibilities for any ministry leader is to make sure that the Word of God is at the heart of your ministry.” Think about the various spheres of where you want to bear fruit. Is the Word of God at the centre of your ministry? How can you make it more central?
6. Jesus called this section of parables “secrets of the kingdom” (Matthew 13:11). Why is that appropriate considering the message of the Parable of the Sower?

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