

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 87 – March 28th – Luke 8:4-21

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Luke

Geldenhuys, Norval	<i>Commentary on the Gospel of Luke</i> , Marshall Morgan and Scott, London, 1950
Marshall, I Howard	<i>The Gospel of Luke</i> , The New International Greek Testament Commentary, Paternoster, Exeter, 1978
Morris, Leon	<i>Luke</i> (Tyndale NT Commentaries), IVP, London 1974

Verses 4-8

Cf. Mk 4:1-25

Verse 4

Συνιόντος δὲ ὄχλου πολλοῦ καὶ τῶν κατὰ πόλιν ἐπιπορευομένων πρὸς αὐτὸν εἶπεν διὰ παραβολῆς:

συνιόντος Verb, pres ptc, m & n gen s
συνεῖμι be present, be with; ptc. "were coming together"

ὄχλος, ου m crowd, multitude
κατὰ πόλιν from each town, from town to town

I.e. people influenced by the ministry of Jesus in 8:1.

ἐπιπορευομαι come to

Verse 5

Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείραι τὸν σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπείρειν αὐτὸν ὃ μὲν ἔπεσεν παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ κατεπατήθη καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ κατέφαγεν αὐτό.

σπειρω sow

του with the infinitive expresses purpose (cf. 1:9). ἐν τῷ with the infinitive means 'while'. Note the use of the present and aorist infinitives in this verse.

σπορος, ου m seed, supply of seed
μὲν ... ἕτερον some ... others
ἔπεσεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s πιπτω fall
παρὰ preposition with acc beside, by
ὁδος, ου f way, path, road
καταπατεω trample on, trample under foot

"The detail may be meant to reflect the contempt which the word suffers in the world (Heb 10:29)." Marshall

πετεινον, ου n bird
κατέφαγεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s κατεσθιω eat up, devour

Verse 6

καὶ ἕτερον κατέπεσεν ἐπὶ τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ ἔχειν ἰκμάδα.

κατέπεσεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s καταπιπτω fall, fall down

Only here and in Acts 26:14; 28:6.

πετρα, ας f rock, solid rock

The context indicates that the meaning is rock covered with a thin layer of soil.

φυὲν Verb, aor pass ptc, n nom/acc s φυω grow, come up

ἐξηράνθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s ξηραίνω dry up, scorch; pass wither

ἰκμας, αδος f moisture

Here only in NT. Marshall suggests that Luke's wording may be based on Jer 17:8.

Verse 7

καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αὐὶ ἄκανθαὶ ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό.

μεσος, η, ον middle; ἐν μ., εἰς μ. in the middle, among

ἀκανθα, ης f thorn-plant

συμφυεῖσαι Verb, aor midd/pass dep ptc, f nom pl συμφυομαι grow up with
ἀποπνιγω choke, drown

Verse 8

καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησεν καρπὸν ἑκατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· Ὁ ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

γη, γης f earth

ἀγαθος, η, ον good, useful, fitting

Here meaning the same as καλος cf. 8:15.

καρπος, ου m fruit, grain, harvest

ἑκατονταπλασιων, ον a hundred-fold

φωνεω call, call out

οὖς, ὠτος n ear, hearing

Cf. 14:35; Mk 4:23; 7:16; Mt 11:15; 13:43; 25:29. A phrase used several times by Jesus. "By it the hearers are summoned to hear at a deeper level than mere sense perception, to take hold of the meaning of the parable, to apply it to themselves, and thus ultimately to hear the word of God which can save them (Ezek 3:27)." Marshall

Verse 9

Ἐπηρώτων δὲ αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ τίς αὕτη εἴη ἢ παραβολή.

ἐπερωταω ask, interrogate, question
μαθητης, ου m disciple, pupil, follower

τίς αὕτη εἴη ἢ παραβολή 'what this parable might be' i.e. 'what might be the meaning of this parable'

Verse 10

ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· Ὑμῖν δέδοται γινῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσιν καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ συνιῶσιν.

δέδοται perf pass δίδωμι

I.e. God has given.

γινῶναι aor. infin γίνομαι
μυστηριον, ου n secret, mystery

The NT uses the word 'mystery' not of something that cannot be known but of something previously hidden which has now been revealed.

λοιπος, η, ον rest, remaining, other
βλεπω see, look
συνημι understand, comprehend

The point is expressed by wording based on Is. 6:9f. The *ἵνα* may have the force 'so that (the Scripture is fulfilled which says that)...' cf. Mt 13:14.

The form of teaching, i.e. in parables, is itself a parable – or illustration of spiritual truth. A parable, at one level, is plain to understand (the crowds enjoyed the stories Jesus told), but at a deeper level its message is difficult to perceive. This is always true of the Gospel: the message itself is simple and straightforward but its significance remains hidden unless and until the Spirit gives understanding. This is illustrated particularly in the parable of the sower.

Verse 11

Ἔστιν δὲ αὕτη ἢ παραβολή· Ὁ σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ.

Look to verse 5ff. for much of the vocabulary of the following verses

Verse 12

οἱ δὲ παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἰσὶν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν.

εἴτα adv. then, and then; moreover, after all

διαβολος, ου m the devil
αἶρω take, take away

πιστεω believe (in), have faith (in)

"The aorist participle indicates the initial act of faith, and the present tense in 8:13 indicates that a continuing attitude is meant." Marshall

σωθῶσιν Verb, aor pass subj, 3 pl σωζω
save

Cf. Mk 5:34; 10:52; Lk 7:50; 8:48,50; 17:19; 18:42; Acts 14:9; 15:11; 16:31; Rom 10:9; 1 Cor 1:21.

Verse 13

οἱ δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς πέτρας οἱ ὅταν ἀκούσωσιν μετὰ χαρᾶς δέχονται τὸν λόγον, καὶ οὗτοι ρίζαν οὐκ ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσιν καὶ ἐν καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται.

ὅταν when, whenever, as often as
δεχομαι receive, accept, welcome
ρίζα, ης f root, source, descendant

I.e. they do not continue to draw on the source of spiritual sustainance.

καιρος, ου m time (viewed as occasion rather than an extent), season; προς καιρον 'for a time'

πειρασμος, ου m trial, temptation
αφισταμαι leave, go away,

Verse 14

τὸ δὲ εἰς τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ πλοῦτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ τελεσφοροῦσιν.

ὑπο with gen = 'by means of'

μεριμνα, ης f care, concern, anxiety
πλουτος, ου m & n riches, wealth
ἡδονη, ης f pleasure, passion
βιος, ου m life, living, possessions
συμπνιγω choke, crowd around, crush
τελεσφορεω produce mature fruit

Here only in the NT

Verse 15

τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῆ, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσιν καὶ καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ.

καλος, η, ον good, fine, precious
κατεχω hold fast, keep, restrain
καρποφορεω bear fruit, be productive
υπομονη, ης f patience, endurance

I.e. remaining steadfast in faith.

Verse 16

Οὐδεὶς δὲ λύχνον ἄψας καλύπτει αὐτὸν σκευεὶ ἢ ὑποκάτω κλίνης τίθησιν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ λυχνίας τίθησιν, ἵνα οἱ εἰσπορευόμενοι βλέπωσιν τὸ φῶς.

οὐδεις, οὐδεμα, οὐδεν no one, nothing

λυχνος, ου m (oil) lamp
 ἄψας Verb, aor act ptc, m nom s ἄπτω light,
 ignite
 καλυπτω cover, hide
 σκευος, ους n object, thing, vessel

"The description is of a patently foolish action (though the saying may originally have referred to the normal way of extinguishing a lamp to avoid fumes.)" Marshall

ἢ οἱ
 ὑποκατω prep with gen under, beneath
 κλινη, ης f bed, couch
 τιθημι place, set, appoint
 λυχνια, ας f lampstand, stand
 φως, φωτος n light

Verse 17

οὐ γάρ ἐστιν κρυπτόν ὃ οὐ φανερόν γενήσεται,
 οὐδὲ ἀπόκρυφον ὃ οὐ μὴ γνωσθῆ καὶ εἰς
 φανερόν ἔλθῃ.

κρυπτος, η, ον hidden, secret, private
 φανερος, α, ον known, evident, visible
 ἀποκρυφος, ον secret, stored away
 γνωσθῆ Verb, aor pass subj, 3 s γινωσκω

"In 12:2 the logion is applied to the unveiling of secrets on the day of judgment. Here the context refers to the disciples making known publicly what Jesus had told them secretly (cf. Mt 10:26f.) and the principle appears to be applied to the present secrecy and future manifestation of the message of the kingdom." Marshall

Verse 18

βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκούετε· ὅς ἂν γὰρ ἔχῃ,
 δοθήσεται αὐτῷ, καὶ ὅς ἂν μὴ ἔχῃ, καὶ ὃ δοκεῖ
 ἔχειν ἀρθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτοῦ.

βλεπω here in the sense of 'take care', cf. 21:8
 par Mk 13:5.

πως how(?) in what way(?)
 ἂν particle indicating contingency
 δοθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s διδωμι
 δοκεω think, suppose
 ἀρθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s αἰρω
 take, take away

"The parables must be heard with care and attention. For if a person ... has knowledge, he will be given (more) – by God, but if he has none – though he may deceive himself into thinking he has some (cf. Jn. 9:40f.) – even the false knowledge that he thinks he has ... will be taken away from him." Marshall

Verse 19

Παρεγένετο δὲ πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡ μήτηρ καὶ οἱ
 ἀδελφοὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύναντο συντυχεῖν
 αὐτῷ διὰ τὸν ὄχλον.

παραγινομαι come, arrive, appear

"Joseph does not appear in the Gospels after the infancy narratives; the most plausible explanation of this is that he was by now dead." Marshall

ἠδύναντο Verb, imperf midd dep indic, 3 pl
 δυναμαι
 συντυχεῖν Verb, aor act infin συντυγχανω
 reach, get near to
 ὄχλος, ου m crowd, multitude

Verse 20

ἀπηγγέλη δὲ αὐτῷ· Ἡ μήτηρ σου καὶ οἱ
 ἀδελφοὶ σου ἐστήκασιν ἔξω ἰδεῖν σε θέλοντες.

ἀπηγγέλη Verb, aor pass indic, 3 s
 ἀπαγγελλω announce, proclaim
 ἐστήκασιν Verb, perf act indic, 3 pl ἵστημι
 stand
 ἔξω out, outside
 ἰδεῖν Verb, aor act infin ὁραω see
 θελω wish, will
 σε Pronoun, acc s συ

Verse 21

ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς· Μήτηρ
 μου καὶ ἀδελφοὶ μου οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ τὸν λόγον
 τοῦ θεοῦ ἀκούοντες καὶ ποιῶντες.

ἀποκριθεὶς Verb, aor pass dep ptc, m nom s
 ἀποκρινομαι answer, reply, say

This defines both entrance into and membership of the community of disciples – the family of Jesus.