

**May 5**

**Scriptures:** Read Luke 8

**Key Verse:** “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” (Luke 8:15)

### **Overview**

Hear. Retain. Produce. That’s what “noble and good hearts” do. The object of the hearing and retaining is the Word of God (v.11). And “fruit” is the result.

What kind of fruit? Well, Jesus doesn’t say. What He does say is that the fruit produced represents “a hundred times more than was sown” (v.8). We’re talking a 10,000 percent increase here! Pretty intimidation. Especially if we think of a single seed as one soul won to Christ. Is Jesus suggesting we’re to reproduce ourselves 100 times? What about those of us who’ve won maybe one or two people to the Lord in our entire lives? What about those who’ve yet to lead their first soul to Christ?

Before you’re overcome with a performance-anxiety attack, let’s think it through. Fruitfulness in the Bible is never described only in soul-winning terms. In fact, the apostle Paul talks of it in terms of “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”, the “fruit of the Spirit” (Gal.5:22, 23). Fruit, then, refers to the general quality, as well as the quantity, of your life. If we’re producing peace, joy, or goodness among our neighbors, we’re fruitful. If we’re leading a neighbor or two to the Lord, as well, then that’s fruitfulness, too. Indeed, if we’re bringing our heavenly Father some joy, I dare say that’s fruitfulness as well.

The key is to be fruitful rather than parasitical. Be an extension of God’s love for the word. Do this, and you’ll be one of those with “a noble and good heart”.

### **Prayer**

Lord God, Your Word says, “He that winneth souls is wise.” Please grant us Your wisdom in translation Your life and character into the language which our family, neighbors and friends will understand. Amen!