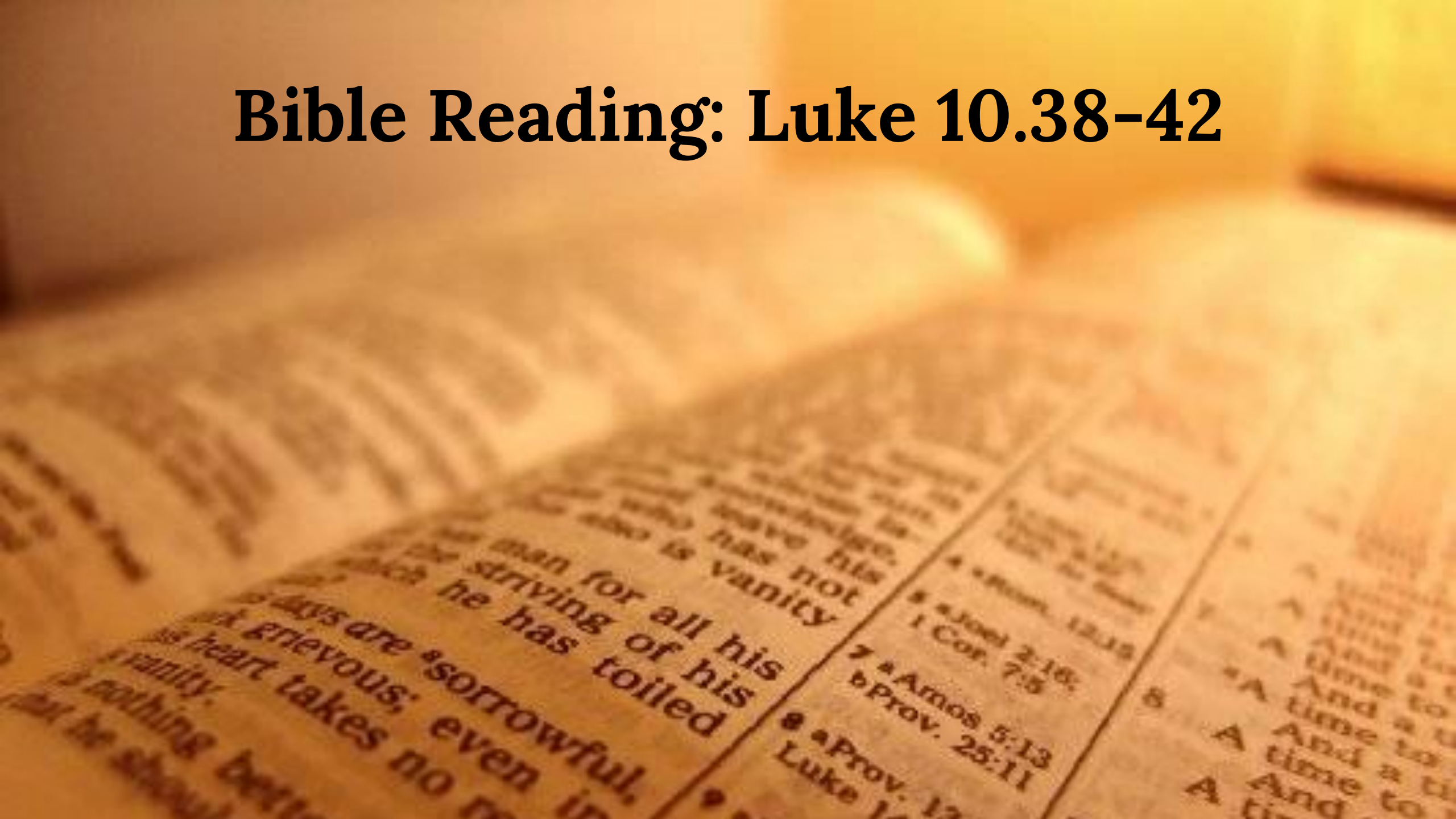


Bible Reading: Luke 10.38-42



... man for all his
... striving of his
... he has toiled
... days are sorrowful.
... grievous; even in
... heart takes no rest
... vanity.
... nothing better
... should

7 ^aAmos 5:13
^bProv. 25:11
8 ^aProv. 12
Luke 14

5 ^aAmos 5:13
^bProv. 25:11
6 ^aAmos 5:13
^bProv. 25:11
7 ^aAmos 5:13
^bProv. 25:11
8 ^aAmos 5:13
^bProv. 25:11

Obstacles to Deep Roots



- “Only one thing is needed”
 - *“Mary ... sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word.” (v39, AV)*
- The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4.1-20)
 - *Only one thing is needed: listen! (v2,9)*
 - *The parable of the sower (v3-8)*
 - *The disturbing purpose of parables (v10-12)*
 - *The meaning of the parable (v13-20)*

“Only one thing is needed”



- Mark 4.2-3a:

- “*He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: “Listen! ...”*”

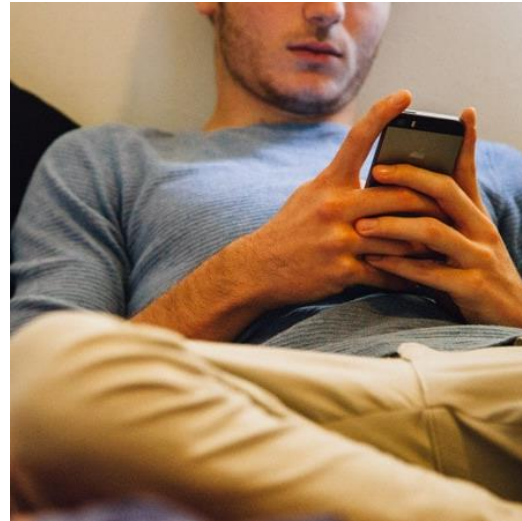
- Mark 4.9:

- “*Then Jesus said, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear.’”*”

- Obstacles to deep roots are those things which keep us from being *taught* by Jesus, stop us *listening* to Jesus and prevent us *hearing* him.

The parable of the sower (v3-9)





The disturbing purpose (v10-12)



- Between the parable and the explanation ...
 - *¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’”*
(Mark 4.10-12)
- This is the exact *opposite* of the popular understanding of parables.

The disturbing purpose (v10-12)



- Two groups ...
 - *“the Twelve and the others around him ... those on the outside”*
- ... distinguished by their attitude to him and his word:
 - *“the Twelve ... asked him about the parables. He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you.”*
 - *Thus they both saw and perceived, heard and understood – and so were enabled to turn to him and receive his forgiveness.*

The disturbing purpose (v10-12)



- But their attitude reveals the Father's prior choice:
 - *“But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, ‘they may be ever ... hearing but never understanding’”*
- The context in Isaiah is one of culpable judgement:
 - *“Go and tell this people: ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” (Isaiah 6.9-10)*

The meaning (v13-20)



- The parable of parables (v13-14):
 - *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word.’”*
 - *This parable explains the different responses to all of Jesus’ parables – indeed, all of God’s word.*
 - *Notice the repetition – it’s all about the word!*

“¹⁴ he farmer sows **the word**. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where **the word** is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away **the word** that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear **the word** and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of **the word**, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear **the word**; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke **the word**, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear **the word**, accept it, and produce a crop – thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”



Response 1: the path (v15)



- “Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.”
 - *In the language of Jesus, they have ears – but hear nothing. They hear – but do not understand.*
 - *Have you ever been in a conversation with someone and suddenly realised that you’ve been nodding without listening and have no idea what they’ve just said? This is that!*

Response 2: the rocks (v16-17)



- “¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.”
 - *An appropriate initial response: “receive it with joy”*
 - *“Trouble ... because of the word” – maybe the cost of repentance?*
 - *“Persecution ... because of the word” – perhaps the loss of friends, income or reputation?*

Response 3: the thorns (v18-19)



- “¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”
 - *“the worries of this life”*
 - *“the deceitfulness of wealth”*
 - *“the desires for other things” (wants)*
 - *“choke the word, making it unfruitful”*

Response 4: good soil (v20)



- “Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”
 - *Notice all is needed: they “accept” the word.*
 - *The harvest is plentiful!*
 - *The crop yields more seeds – disciple-making disciples.*

