



## Sermon Notes: Be Careful How You Hear

1. The indifferent heart.

2. The superficial heart.

3. The distracted heart.

Sources of distraction:

- Anxieties.
- Materialism.
- Pleasure.

4. The fruitful heart.

- It believes and practices the Word of God.
- It endures.
- It propagates the Gospel.

HOW can we become fruitful Christians?

- Moralistic Approach:
- Gospel Approach:



## Application Questions: Be Careful How You Hear

1. Specifically how did you experience and express love and gratitude for Christ this week?
2. What are some common reasons people give for being dismissive toward the Bible? What are their barriers to giving the Word of God a hearing in the first place?
3. Are the people illustrated by the rocky soil and the thorny soil Christians or non-Christians? Support your answers with Scripture.
4. What are some reasons people's faith often remains shallow and ungrounded? What are some common barriers that prevent people from going deeper in their faith?
5. How is indulging worries just as debilitating to spiritual growth as materialism or hedonism? [Consider: What do you worry about? What do your worries presuppose to be true about God? What are these conclusions doing to you?]
6. Did Jesus bring us into his family because we trusted and obeyed, or does Jesus' bringing us into his family enable us to trust and obey? Why is it vitally important that we get this order right?
7. Referring to the agricultural analogy, what is the ultimate goal of the Christian life? What are some widely-accepted substitutes for this goal within Christianity?
8. With respect to #7, how does this align with the goals you've set for yourself? What, practically and specifically, would you need to change to bring your life into alignment with this purpose?
9. Why do you think Jesus chose seed to illustrate the nature of God's Word? In what ways does this encourage you?
10. What one thing does God want you to do in response to this message?