

Those Who Hear God's Word and Do It
Luke 8:16-25
Key Verse: 8:21

"He replied, 'My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice.'"

1. Read verses 16-17. Where does one ordinarily put a lighted lamp? What is the purpose of lighting a lamp and putting it on a stand? What happens when Jesus the light shines in a life? In the world? Why might some people not like the light and others come eagerly to the light? See John 3:19-21. Why should we be transparent? How can we be?

2. Read verse 18. How many times is "hear" mentioned in verses 11-15? What does it mean to "consider carefully how you listen?" How does God's word shine light on our paths? (Ps 119:105) What should be our attitude toward Bible study?

3. Read verses 19-21. Why did Jesus' mother and brothers come to see him? (Mk 3:31-35) Why could they not get near him? How did he respond to the one who told him about them? Why was Jesus' seemingly cold attitude to his human family necessary?

4. Read verse 21 again. What did Jesus teach about the importance of hearing and obeying the word of God? How is this related to verse 18? To the parable of the lamp on the stand? Who were Jesus' true family? How can we be Jesus' true family?

5. Read verse 22-23. What did Jesus suggest? What did Jesus do as they sailed across? Why might he be tired? (19) How does this reveal Jesus' humanity? What unexpected thing happened as they crossed the lake?

6. Read verse 24. What did the disciples do and say? What does this reveal about them? How did Jesus handle the storm? What does this reveal about the power of his word? Read verse 25a. What did he say to the disciples? In what sense is fear the opposite of faith?

7. Read verse 25b. What was the response of the disciples? What kind of fear is this? What did they realize about Jesus? What kind of faith does he want his disciples to have? How does God use the storms of life to train us? What does this event reveal about the power of Jesus' word and who Jesus is?