

Sunday 3rd March 2024

God is working His purpose out

John 11 | Scott Taylor

1. An extraordinary harvest has been promised

'A hundred times more than was sown' (v. 8)

Compare Revelation 7.

2. Four possible responses to the gospel

a. Some hear, and then 'the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart' (v. 12)

b. Some receive the word with joy, 'but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away' (v. 13)

c. Some hear, 'but as they go on their way, they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature' (v. 14)

- d. 'Those with a noble and good heart . . . hear the word, retain it and by persevering produce a good crop' (v. 15, 'bear fruit with patience' [ESV])

3. Fruitful hearing

- Three parabolic sayings in vv. 16–18 continue the challenge to hear the word of Jesus appropriately and let the light of Christ shine through them

- A final event gives Jesus the opportunity to say, 'My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice' (v. 21)

Seeing, hearing, believing, and persevering