

A young green plant with several leaves is growing out of sandy, light-brown soil. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills under a pale sky. The overall tone is natural and serene.

ANYONE WITH EARS TO HEAR SHOULD

LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND

A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath. Other seed fell among rocks. Other seed fell among thorns. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!

LUKE 8:4-15



As we have been drawing our Choose Your King series to a close, we have reflected on the importance of aligning our hearts with God. In King David's actions, late one afternoon when he lusted after Bathsheba and took her for himself (2 Samuel 11:1-5), we see the danger of when we put our desires above God's. David's actions remind us that even when we have found God we are in danger of hardening our heart towards him. A hard heart deceives itself living for self-satisfaction; It is blinded to the value and life of Jesus (Romans 11:7-12; Mark 8:17-18).

Jesus' life reveals the corruption of self-satisfaction and offers another way. A way that throws off our sinful nature and instead lets the Spirit renew our heart (Ephesians 4:17-24). Jesus came as the seed of life and sowed Himself in our lives through his Word (Luke 8:4-15). His seeds have been scattered, but where they fall is up to us. How we respond to God's word, the quality of the soil that we give it, affects the seed's growth. Jesus' said that:

The seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest. (Luke 8:15)

David W. Bennett writes that 'the true follower of Jesus is not one who merely hears his word, but also responds in obedience. Discipleship is not a passive state, but an active engagement.'¹ During the current lockdown you might find yourself having a lot more time or have had to reorganise your schedule. Certainly the latter has been true for me. It has been challenging how we prioritise our time, perhaps the first question we should ask is how am I growing in Jesus? How am I growing in God's word?

In order to soften our hearts we must put on a new nature revealed to us in God's word. Doing this might be easier than you think. It begins with honestly answering the question: will I fully embrace Jesus Christ as the greatest treasure in my life?

Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. If we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. (Hebrews 3:12-14)

¹ D. W. Bennett, *Metaphors of ministry: Biblical images for leaders and followers* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1993), 32.



What's On

You can view our monthly calendar at <https://dwb.church/events>. Please read our COVID guidance on meeting with us: <https://dwb.church/covid>

February

Worship Gatherings

Join us on YouTube/Facebook as we worship together every Sunday at 11am (Weekly).

07: Communion Service (Online only)

14: 124th Anniversary (Online only)

21: Our Series on Luke (Online only)

28: New Series (Online/TBC)

Life Groups

Discuss the most recent Sunday message, pray and share life together in our Life Groups. The latest study questions can be viewed at:

<https://dwb.church/links/biblestudy>

Day time Prayer & Bible Study – Cancelled during current tier-4 firebreak lockdown

Evening Prayer & Bible Study – Tues 8pm (Weekly Zoom) – Join our blended Zoom and House life groups as we share and grow together.

Natter & cuppa - Weds 7.30 to 8pm (Weekly Zoom)

Join with us for a natter on Zoom, bring a cuppa with you if you want.

Women's Bible Study – Mon 1st, 8.00pm (Monthly Zoom)

Gather together as we continue the <https://prayercourse.org/>. For further information contact Rachel.

Psalms with Prayer - Wed 3rd 11am (Monthly Online)

Join us as we reflect on Psalms 64-67 followed by prayer. Released on the first Wednesday of the month watch the reflection and pray at your convenience.

Prayer walk – Thu 18th, 11am (Monthly Church)

Round the local area. Meet at the Church. Please speak to Anne Berry if you are interested.

Sharing In and Out Together

Generosity

We would like to thank all of you for your generosity in continuing to support the work of the church during this time. We appreciate that these are uncertain times and are grateful that many of us are still able to contribute to the mission of the Church. Please note: tax payers are eligible to sign up to **gift aid**, through this we receive a sizeable top-up from the government – to find out more speak to Alan Berry our treasurer.

You can find further information on how to give to the church via bacs (preferred), cheque or cash at: <https://dwb.church/giving/>

December Report*

December saw a lower than average monthly giving (-43%) and unusually large outgoings which included Community Garden payment, Christmas mission costs and streaming equipment purchases.

Description	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Bank	£1,208	£4,186	£5,280.00
Investments	£0	£0	£86,000.00
Total	£1,208	£4,186	£91,280



* **DWB** is Income and expenditure directly related to Dunfermline West Baptist Church, it has been split between those who have signed up to **gift aid**. **Charitable** income and expenditure is ear marked for specific charities that we support



Mission Report

We are dedicated to reaching out into the community and worldwide as a voice of hope, love and justice. You can find out more about our missional activities at:

<https://dwb.church/global-mission>

Sunday's Message

If you haven't had a chance to watch the message from Sunday or would like to watch it again you can watch it at:

<https://dwb.church/youtube>

Buddy Groups

Keep up to date with prayers for our community at

<https://dwb.church/prayers>

Connecting with us

You can connect into each of our services via <https://dwb.church/online>

and also via telephone using our latest stay connected details at:

<https://dwb.church/connected>

Subscribe, Like and Invite.

Please do regularly keep up to date with the churches news on Facebook and YouTube and interact with its content:

- YouTube: <https://dwb.church/youtube>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dunfermlinewest>

Worship Group

As we are creating new songs we are adding them to a YouTube playlist which you can listen to whenever you like at:

<https://dwb.church/worship/playlist>