



### **Introduction:**

[TEACHER NOTE: Tell a story about a time when you didn't listen to someone or failed to listen well.]

When I was a kid, I had a specific chore in my house. When I came home from school, it was my responsibility to take the chicken, steak, whatever was intended for dinner that evening, out of the freezer and put it in the sink to defrost. When I would leave for school in the morning, my mom would say, "Michelle, make sure you take the chicken out of the freezer when you get home." I'd say, "yeah, yeah, yeah, I got it mom." And then about the time I was supposed to get home, my mom would call me and tell me to take the chicken out of the freezer. Being the kid that I was, I think I maybe actually remembered to take the chicken out like 75% of the time. There were absolutely times when I intentionally "forgot" to take it out because I knew that meant we would just order a pizza.

### **Tension:**

If we are supposed to listen to anyone, it's probably smart to listen to what our parents tell us to do, right? But just because she was my mom, didn't mean I always listened to her.

Jesus knew the same thing about how people responded to hearing the Word of God. Just because Jesus was God's chosen agent didn't mean people responded to him automatically. Truly listening and grasping the Word of God is a matter of the heart within the hearer; it's a matter of the soil as Jesus would explain to the disciples and the crowds that would gather around Him.

Grab your Bible and open it to Luke chapter 8. While you flip there, I want to explain a little bit of what Jesus had been doing up to this point in Luke's Gospel.

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