

## God, I Need to Hear From You!

It had been one of those weeks when things just did not go well. Today had not started much better. Up at 4 am, I (Bob) boarded the Metrolink train in Redlands to make my way to Los Angeles Union Station. From there I'd head to Inglewood to continue training some clinicians and behavioral health professionals at a Christian clinic in an underserved community.



I was tired, frustrated, and dejected. In fact, I wanted to be back at home in bed.

The previous week I introduced to this group taking a spiritual history—a series of questions that clinicians can ask patients to determine if patients have spiritual needs that they would like to discuss. Towards the end a physician exclaimed, “I’ll *never* ask any of these questions!” When I asked why not, he complained about not having enough time. And I had thought I had done a decent job on the training!

On the train, I opened my Bible. “God, I need to hear from you today!”

In the parable of the sower in Luke 8, Jesus discusses sowing seed on the path, in the rocks, among the thorns, and into good soil. The results are not surprising. Jesus explains the good soil represents those who hold the word in their heart and bear fruit “*with patience*” (Lk 8:15).

In past readings, I’d missed the “with patience” part. But today God was showing it to me in a direct and timely way. He was meeting me where I was with exactly what I needed.

I’m not always a great trainer or leader. But I’m able to hold his word in my heart and allow him to produce fruit in and through me *with patience*. I can do that. And as my train chugged forward while the sun crested the horizon, my dejection lifted and my resolve restored.

*Bob & Diana*



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