

# LIFE & MINISTRY OF *Christ*

## THE WORD

### 1. The parable of the soils.

Luke 8:(4-8) And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

- a. A great multitude had gathered
- b. He spoke by a parable: "Earthly stories with a heavenly meaning."
- c. A sower went out to sow seed
- d. Seeds fell on four different types of soil.

## **Parable of the soils – nothing's wrong with the seed**

EXAMPLE: Packs of seeds

**The difference is never the seed, but on the kind of soil it lands on**

... some seed fell by the wayside

... some fell on rock

... some fell among thorns

... others fell on good ground

1. The wayside was the path where people walked, and nothing could grow because the ground was too hard.

2. On rock was where the soil was thin. Seed sprang up quickly because of the warmth of the soil, but the seed was unable to take root because of the rocks.

3. Among thorns described soil that is fertile – perhaps too fertile, because thorns grow there as well as grain. The thorns choked out the good grain and did not make a productive crop. Taking everything into your heart

4. Good ground described soil that was both fertile and weed-free. A good, productive crop grew in the good ground. The crop may be a hundredfold increase to what was sown.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear:

This was a not a call for all to listen. Rather, it was a call for those who were spiritually sensitive to take special note.

## **2. Luke 8: (9-10) The purpose of parables of the soils**

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this parable mean?" And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'"

### **a. What does this parable mean?**

#### **1. To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables:**

\*parables were more like puzzles or riddles than illustrations.

\*Only those who had the right "key" could understand them.

\*The disciples, who wanted the things of God, were given to know the mysteries of the kingdom – they could be spoken to plainly.

#### **2. The mysteries of the kingdom of God:**

\* a mystery isn't something you can't figure out.

\* It is something that you would never know unless God revealed it to you.

#### **3. Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand:**

\*By quoting this passage from **Isaiah 6:9**

\*God's message is those who are spiritually sensitive can understand

\*But the hardened would merely hear a story.

## **EXAMPLE:**

### **B. People perception in Jesus' audience**

- The farmer's thought, "He's telling me - be more careful in the way I cast my seed. Because I have wasted a lot of seed."
- The politician thought, "He's telling me - that I need to start a farm education program to help farmers more efficiently. This will be a big boost in my re-election campaign."
- The newspaper reporter's thought, "He's telling me that there is a big story here about the bird problem and how it affects the farming community."
- The salesman's thought, "He's encouraging me in my fertilizer sales. Why, I could help that farmer more than he knows if he only used my product."

But none of them could understand the spiritual meaning until

**ILLUSTRATION:** Seeds are good / Soil, no so much  
Jesus explained, the key to the parable: Parable of the soils – nothing's wrong with the seed...

### **The seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11).**

If you miss the key, you miss the whole parable.

Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand:

Note: How blessed are those who do understand the parables of Jesus.

\*Gain the benefit of the spiritual truth illustrated

\* They also display some measure of responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

### **3. Luke 8:(11-15) Jesus explains the parable of the soils.**

**“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.**

**...wayside** - are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

**... rock** - are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

**... fell among thorns** - are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

(Some people are deceived – they think – I am a person of the word)

**... fell on the good ground** - are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

**a. The seed is the word of God: Jesus likened the word of God (we could say both spoken and written) to be like seed.**

A seed has enormous power in itself for the re-generation of life and usefulness, if it is received (planted) in the right conditions.

**1 Corinthians 3:6**, and Peter wrote that we have been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever (**1 Peter 1:23**).

## **b. The preacher of the gospel is like the sower.**

### **1. Those by the wayside**

\* hear; the word

\* The devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved: How?

- The birds devoured the seed (**Luke 8:5**),
- Receive the word with hardened hearts - never penetrates - quickly removed.
- Satan brings distractions
- They never hear the word with understanding. / must be understood to bear fruit.
- Keep men in darkness regarding their understanding of the word

### **(2 Corinthians 4:3-4).**

Satan's strategy gives some wisdom to us if we will receive it – that if a heart does stay in contact with the word of God, there is a good chance that repentance and faith will come forth.

### **2. Those sown on rock**

\* they hear & receive the word with joy

\* have no root

\* believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away:

\* thin soil in rocky places quickly springs up & withers and dies (**Luke 8:6**)

\*Some respond to the word with immediate enthusiasm yet soon wither away. They had good seed, they had a warm environment, they had a joyful reception of the word, and they received it eagerly. None of those things were the problem; they failed because the seed lacked moisture (**Luke 8:6**) and therefore had no root to endure the time of temptation.

- Moisture: No connection with the Spirit of God, who waters the word.

- Referring to a Spirit filled life.

- Springs of living water

- Details of some indications of this lack of moisture:

- Religious doctrine without the Life of the Spirit.

- Experience without character.

- Practice without heart of love

- Faith without repentance

- Confidence without humiliation

- Action without spirituality

- Zeal without communion with God

### **3. Some fell among thorns**

\* heard the word, they go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity

\* grow the stalks of grain among the thorns yet soon be choked out (**Luke 8:7**),

\*some respond to the word and grow for a while, but stopped in their spiritual growth by competition from unspiritual things.

\*The soil was too fertile because it also grew all sorts of other things that choked out the word of God. Namely, it grew the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.

#### **4. The good ground are those who,**

- \* Having heard the word with a noble and good heart
  - \* Keep it and bear fruit with it
  - \* Fulfilling the purpose of the seed (Bags of seeds)
  - \* Brought forth fruit in their soil, and in generous proportion
- (Luke 8:8).**
- \* Bears fruit with patience: desired outcome

We notice that the Difference in each type of Soil.

The sower cast the same seed.

You could not blame the differences in results on the sower or on the seed BUT on the RECEIVER / only on the soil.

“O my dear hearers, you undergo a test today! Peradventure you will be judging the preacher, but a greater than the preacher will be judging you, for the Word itself shall judge you.” **(Spurgeon)**

#### **Application:**

“What kind of soil am I?”

How can I prepare my heart and mind to be the right kind of soil?”

This parable invites action to receive the word of God to full it's benefit.

## **Goals for 2024**

1. A year of building our lives on God's WORD.

2. The WORD is the transforming seed to REGENERATE

Build strong personal lives

Build strong families

Build a strong church (toddlers, kids, youth, adults)

Build a strong community

3. First Steps

**Commit / Faithful / Servanthood / Love Well**

Remember the problem we have is not a seed problem /

But a Soil problem

1. Nothing is wrong with the seeds / Perfect form

2. It's a soil problem

Our farmland has been over used and abused

Focus:

Keeping the Main thing the Main thing

**THE WORD**

Preparing the Hearts to receive it

Prayer and Bible reading plan