

## Hidden Kingdom Part 9 - "Bearing Fruit" (4-11-21)

**Introduction: This Weekend the Masters** (Justin Rose - 40yrs, 5x top 10, 2x runner-up, changing course)

**Today: The Parable of the Sower (or the soils) . . .**

### Matthew 13:3, 18-19a (ESV)

(3) And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.

(18) "Hear then the parable of the sower: (19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom . . .

**Note:** The seed is the word of the kingdom.

- Remember the sower was sowing everywhere!
- God is speaking kingdom words. In all times, in all situations, to everyone.
- The issue isn't whether God is speaking.
- The real issue is under what conditions will His words fall into my life.

### 1) The Path

#### Matthew 13:4, 19 (ESV)

(4) And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them . . .

(19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

**Notes:** The Word never lands, it bounces right off and gets snatched up.

- Hard heart – Busy going our own way, and walking our own path
- Distracted heart - Too busy, Too distracted, and so we don't Hear!
- Busyness is a mentality, and a physical behavior.

**Application:** It takes Patience & Humility to learn and grow. Choose His Path, slow down and let him lead.

### 2) The Rocky Ground

#### Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21 (ESV)

(5) Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and **immediately** they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, (6) but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away . . .

(20) As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and **immediately** receives it with joy, (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, **immediately** he falls away.

**Note:** The Word lands, but doesn't last

- Notice - everything is "immediate" - beware of following Emotions instead of cultivating relationship.
- What guides me? Often we live out of personal experience, and make decisions based on that.
- How I feel before, during, and after an experience becomes primary.

**Example:** Silly video (dancer practicing for competition - never changes, just repeats the same motion)

Beware when you hear God, and say yes, but then the outcome wasn't what you wanted or thought it would be. This leads to questioning if you heard right, or questioning his goodness, and ultimately my faith withers!

- **Primary Issue:** No Root & No Moisture (Luke's Gospel – no moisture)
  - Depth, Growth, & Stability are the goal. Long-term health.
  - Not looking for a quick fix.
  - Not my perception of God's immediate response to a situation.

**Application:** Beware of emotional, quick responses to God's Word and the circumstances around you. Let your roots go deep. **Focus more on relationship than results.**

### 3) The Thorny Ground

#### Matthew 13:7, 22 (ESV)

(7) Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them . . .

(22) As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

**Note:** What's really growing in your soil?

- **Stress/Anxiety: Cares of this world** – seems reasonable, but chokes the life out of you
  - This feels responsible, but it is prideful. Got to learn to let go & trust Him.
- **Control: Deceitfulness of riches**– pursuing the pleasure you can arrange for
  - Notice it is the deceitfulness of riches. No one thinks this is them!
- **Lust: Desires for other things** (Mark 4:19) – those who hunger & thirst for righteousness will be filled!
  - Lust hungers, but is never satisfied. Watch out for boredom with God & His Word. If you feel like you “know all of this” it's a dangerous place to be.

**Paul's warning in 2nd Timothy chapter 3:** He is describing selfish living that destroys (even within the church community). And then he says these words . . .

#### 2 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

**Notes:** Be careful not to use the Holy Spirit to “rubber stamp” you own desires. Don't hear what you want to hear. Instead hear what He wants to say, and then purpose to follow Him, even if its stretches you and runs counter to your desires.

**Application:** Don't let the cares of your life, choke out the life of Jesus in you!

## Conclusion: The Good Soil

### Matthew 13:8, 23 (ESV)

(8) Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (23) As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and **understands** it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**Note:** The real way to be fruitful? Gain - **Understanding**

### Understand (definition):

The comprehending activity of the mind entails the assembling of individual facts into an organized whole, as collecting the pieces of a puzzle and putting them together. The mind grasps concepts and sees the proper relationship between them.

The Goal in our church is not to get people to do stuff . . . Examples:

**This Sermon:** slow down, don't be ruled by emotions, don't be consumed by pursuing pleasure

**Serving in Church:** Getting people to serve vs. understanding we get to serve.

**My Journey:** The master trusts me to share in his kingdom work - investing in the most vulnerable, impressionable, etc. For **6 years**, every Sunday, every Wednesday, using vacation time for summer camp & youth trips.

**Wrong way:** Try to get people to do stuff - fear based or just trying to inspire / motivate by emotions

**Way better:** Help people gain Understanding - if you can get people to understand and live out of that.

**Application:** If your life is not fruitful, you don't understand. But the solution isn't to tape fruit onto your branches.

### The goal is to see the life Jesus offers:

- 1) **A New Path** - Freedom from just rushing through life and missing what really matters  
Instead I can walk through life with purpose and intentionality - catching all Jesus has to offer!
- 2) **On the Rock** - Freedom from being controlled by the circumstances around me  
Instead being rooted and finding health and purpose not matter what comes my way!
- 3) **Room to Grow** - Freedom from being overwhelmed with activity and underwhelmed with the results  
Instead I can live an unhurried life, that drinks fully from the river that never runs dry!