

Treasuring the Word of the Kingdom
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Vs. 19, The seed that is sown is the word of the kingdom,
Luke 8:11, the Word of God
Soil refers to the hearts of humanity.

The Point: The Word of God, sown in the hearts of different people, grows differently based on the environment of the heart.

The Path: Easily rejects the truth. The evil one snatches away what was sown. There is no understanding.

- Apathy and the evil one working in tandem

Vs. 20-21, Rocky ground: Receives with joy, but neutral, no movement, no foundation.

The person who receives the word, but quickly is not willing to look to the interests of others. They may even “endure for a while.”

How then can we recognize if this resembles our hearts?

As soon as persecution, rejection, ridicule, or trial arises because of our relationship with Jesus, do we fall away?

“Give me the love of Jesus without the cross of Jesus”

“The Second Mile is not an option”

Vs. 22, Thorns: Hears the Word and weighs it against the desires of the flesh.

No time or energy for Jesus. They know a lot, but their lives cannot produce fruit because they are choked out by thorns.

A worldly mindset that supersedes the kingdom mindset.

Not “as soon as” like the rocks... but tired over time... slowly choked out.

“I understand that the kingdom is based in a poor spirit, mournfulness, meekness etc... but **I do not desire** those things.”

We must each sincerely evaluate our desires of the flesh vs. the desires of the kingdom.

Vs. 23, Good soil: Hears, understands, cultivates the Word of God, engages the principle of multiplication (fruitfulness).

Living in every instance, always aware that you are in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Those who, especially when they lose, magnify Christ because they know him more intimately through suffering. Philippians 3:7-8

The fruitfulness with which we share the gospel reflects the manner in which *our hearts* receive the Word of the Kingdom.

Conviction: If you want to be a person who shares the gospel, as we are commissioned to do in Matthew 28, then you must be a person who knows the Word of God, who loves the Word of God, and who cultivates that Word in your heart.

The result is promised: Thirty, Sixty, a hundred fold!

This principle is supported throughout the Gospel of Matthew: **Matthew 12:33-35**

33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. 34 You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. 35 The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”

Two Questions:

What does it look like to treasure this Word? What exactly is the Word of the kingdom?

This is what Paul prays for the Philippians! Phil 1:9 “That your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,”

Treasuring God’s Word:

“Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.” Jeremiah 15:16

Memorize it! Pray it!

If you had 5 minutes to articulate the Word of the Kingdom, drawing from the whole of scripture, what would you say?

The word of the kingdom:

1. Who is God? Holy. Set apart. Unique. Perfect. Good. (Ex 15:11, 1 Sam 2:2, Rev 4:8)
2. Who is Man? Made in God’s Image. Yet Rebellious. Sinful. Separated from God. Dead in our trespasses. Imperfect. (Gen 1:27, Rom 3:23, Ps 51:5)
3. We cannot save ourselves or restore our relationship with God on our own. (Eph 2:8-9, Is 64:6, Matt 9:36)
4. Who is Jesus? God the Son. Eternal and equal with God, yet God in flesh, empathetic.

- (Heb 1, 2:17-18, Phil 2:6-10, Is 7:14) We know him!
5. Jesus lived in perfect obedience to God without sin, according to God's design, fully abiding in the love of the Father. (2 Cor 5:21, Heb 9:14, 4:15, John 15)
 6. Jesus sacrificed his perfect life on the cross to pay the debt of our sins and to bear our shame. (1 Pet 3:18, Is 53:4-6, Col 2:14-15)
 7. Jesus conquered the power of sin and death by resurrecting from the grave. (Rom 6:9, Eph 1:20-23, Rev 21:4, 1 Cor 15)
 8. Forgiveness and restoration to God's family are available if we trust in Jesus and repent towards God. (Rom 2:4, 10:7, Matt 3:2, 2 Chron 7:14, Hab 2:4)
 9. God gives us his Holy Spirit which grants us new life and changes us to live more and more in line with God's good and free design. (Gal 2:20, Matt 10:22, Eph 2:10, Rom 8:11)

Do you treasure the Word of God?

Is your life structured to cultivate the love of God's Word? A knowledge of God's Word?

What is attempting to choke out your love for God's Word? And by extension, your ability to bear fruit?

What is your **day to day** routine of abiding in God's Word?

How is the Word of God growing into fruitfulness in your life?