You Can't Give What You Don't Have. The Power of the Parable.

February 3, 2022

You Can't Give What You Don't Have. The Power of the Parable. Verse of the Week - Acts 10:15 - Do not call anything impure that God has made clean

The parable was a familiar story for the times.

Initially, it creates a window into the story. Through this window, the listener can observe himself participating in the story itself. Then, the <u>window</u> turns into a <u>mirror</u>, and through the parable, the listener gets a true <u>reflection</u> of themselves.

This has two effects on the listener.

- 1. <u>Repels</u> the listener.
- 2. Attracts the listener.

The parable of the sower is about your human heart and its condition!!!!!!!

He wants your heart to be fertile so you will accept His truth. His truth is this:

He Loves You! He Forgives You!

He wants you to love and forgive <u>yourself</u> as He does.

He wants you to <u>see</u> yourself as He does

Through that incredible love experience, you will have <u>life</u> to the <u>full</u>. The world will see that life in you as you share the gospel by how you live.

Through sharing, you will pull people to the cross.

Fertile Ground- A soft and <u>humble</u> heart that hears <u>who</u> God says <u>he is</u> through his belief in Christ. He believes that God <u>perfected</u> him through Christ finished work on the cross. Because of this perfection, God

now <u>resides</u> in his heart. He understands the <u>power</u> of that statement. He believes God sees him as a perfect justified, purified, sanctified son or daughter with <u>no sin</u> baggage attached. He sees <u>himself</u> as <u>God</u> sees him.

He forgives himself as God forgave him, and therefore, can extend forgiveness to others.

This is a hard place to get too. It is even harder to stay.

Romans 5:17

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of <u>grace</u> and of the gift of <u>righteousness</u> reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Salvation is not just about getting into heaven when you die. It is also about getting <u>God</u> out of <u>heaven</u> and into your <u>heart</u>. Then, through His residence in your heart, you produce <u>good</u> <u>fruit</u>.