

SESSION 6 – GAINING DEPTH (APPLICATION FOR SOIL #2)

Matthew 13:23(NASB) "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

- I. As we discussed, once you really see this passage for what it is something becomes apparent. What becomes apparent is that Jesus is very focused on the quality of our hearts (Soil). The receptiveness and fertility of our hearts.
 - a. Jesus desires us to have lives that are so much more spiritually, this side of heaven, than we can possibly imagine!
 - i. **John 10:10 (NASB95)** "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
 - b. This abundant life is found in a wholehearted, vibrant walk with Him.
 - i. *"You may be wondering, why is it important to have good soil? The reason that soil quality matters is that healthy soil can store and process more water. Poor quality, depleted soil, won't hold water and will make it impossible for your plants to thrive and survive."*
<https://www.gardeningchannel.com/importance-of-soil-quality/>
 - c. Let's be reminded again of what water represents in scripture then: Water is a picture of the Holy Spirit it is also a picture of the Word.
 - d. At the end of the day all of this is simply pointing to our relationship with Jesus. Simply pointing to the quality of relationship we can have with Him.
 - e. As we gain depth in our relationship with Him, we begin turning over to Him more and more of our hearts. In other words, our hearts become less compartmentalized, our walk becomes less compartmentalized as we start having more of a wholehearted relationship with Him.
 - i. You are falling in love with your Creator!
- II. Why so much talk about the heart? Two reasons:
 - a. The heart is directly tied to the greatest commandment according to Jesus:
 - i. **Matthew 22:36-38 (NASB95)** 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37 And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment."
 - b. Just like the quality of the **soil** determines the **health** of the plant in our parable the quality of our **heart** is going to determine the **health** of our walk with Him.
 - i. **Matthew 15:18-20 (NASB)** 18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the **heart**, and those defile the man. 19 "For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."
 1. It is our heart that He's interested in because it's our heart where our sinful thoughts and actions are born. If you're not sure of that remember this saying from Jesus.

2. Jesus Himself affirms this truth for us:
 - a. **Matthew 5:27-28 (NASB)** 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; 28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
 - b. **Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)** 23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

3. Why does God tell us to guard our hearts?
 - a. **Jeremiah 17:9 (NASB)** "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?
 - i. **Deceitful** - aqob (ä·kōve') - deceitful, sly, insidious.
 - ii. **Sick** - anash (ä·nash') - desperate, incurable, desperately wicked, woeful, very sick.
 - iii. **Who can understand it?** - I love this part. Jeremiah makes this statement about the heart, almost revelatory "This heart of mine is so bad, it desires to pull away from Him so often and in so many different ways. Is there anyone who might be able to navigate this thing inside of me that is constantly trying to ruin me with deception?" Notice the next verse:
 1. **Jeremiah 17:10 (NLT)** But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their **actions deserve**."
 - b. He is the One who is able to search your heart and help you understand it. He is the One who wants to reveal to you how to medicate it.
 - c. Is it any wonder why He chose this as the exact place that He was going to dwell in believers?
 - i. **Ephesians 3:17-19 (NASB)** 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
 - d. This is why Jesus planted life right in the middle of our hopelessly sick hearts. To show that He can make all things new, even a hopelessly lost and diseased heart.

III. DAVID – A MAN AFTER GOD’S HEART

- a. **Acts 13:22 (NASB)** "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'

- i. Since we've looked at a study of different soil types, whom better for us to look at in scripture than the only man that God said had the type of soil He is looking for.
- ii. Let's begin by reviewing with the rocky soil. If you will remember Jesus had this to say about the rocky soil:
 - 1. **Matthew 13:20-21 (NASB) 20 "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.**
- iii. This is someone who has no firm root and when tough times come, times that requires faith to stand they fall away because they aren't grounded in their **relationship** with Him, in other words they have a shallow grasp of **scripture**.
- iv. This shallow grasp of scripture comes in a couple of ways:
 - 1. **Being a believer who doesn't get into the Word.** There's just a general apathy in their walk, they're lukewarm.
 - 2. **A believer who gets into the Word but their doctrine is false.** False doctrine is Satan's way of insidiously getting us to think of God and His character in ways that are untrue. Once these doctrines take root, loving God wholeheartedly becomes impossible.
- v. In light of this soil where can we say David was? Let's look:

b. DAVID'S THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WORD - It's David who wrote Psalm 1:

Psalms 1:2-3 (NASB) 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

i. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

- 1. **Delight** - chephets (khā'·fets) - delight, pleasure, great pleasure
- 2. David is telling us in this part of the passage that a believer can arrive in a place where they take great pleasure and delight in getting into God's Word.
- 3. Since we are taking the time to see what this man after God's own heart said we should stop see if he did indeed take delight in God's Word.

c. Psalm 119 was written by David, it's **176** verses long. In almost every verse David has something to say about God's Word and what it means to him.

- i. *"Being such a long Psalm - and the longest chapter in the Bible - this Psalm has been of some historical note. There have been many lengthy works written on this Psalm; one of them is by Thomas Manton, a Puritan preacher and writer, who wrote a three-volume work on Psalm 119. Each volume is between 500 and 600 pages, with a total of 1,677 pages. There are 190 chapters in his work, more than one chapter for each verse.*
- ii. *"Luther professed that he prized this Psalm so highly, that he would not take the whole world in exchange for one leaf of it." (Bridges)*

d. PSALM 119 GOD'S WORD AND IT'S EFFECT ON THE HEART

1. **Psalm 119:11 (ESV)** 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you...
 2. **Stored** – ṣāpan (tsaw-fan') - to hide, treasure, treasure or store up.
3. **Psalm 119:32 (ESV)** 32 I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.
 4. **Enlarge** - rachab (rä·khav') - to be or grow wide, be or grow large, to make room.
 - a. This fits exactly with our picture of the seed and the soil.
 - b. *"The reason that soil quality matters is that healthy soil can store and process more water."*

e. **PSALM 119 GOD'S WORD AND ITS ABILITY TO COMFORT**

- i. **Psalms 119:23-25 (NASB)** 23 Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes. 24 Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors. 25 Daleth. My soul cleaves to the dust; **revive** me according to Your word.

f. **PSALM 119 GOD'S WORD GIVES REAL WISDOM**

- i. **Psalms 119:66 (NASB)** 66 Teach me good discernment and knowledge, For I believe in Your commandments.
- ii. **Psalms 119:98-100 (NASB)** 98 Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine. 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the aged, Because I have observed Your precepts.

Psalms 1:2-3 (NASB) 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, **And in His law he meditates day and night.** 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- iii. **Psalms 19:1-10 (NLT)** 1 For the choir director: A psalm of David. The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. 2 Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. 3 They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard. 4 Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. 5 It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. 6 The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end. Nothing can hide from its heat. 7 The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living. 9 Reverence for the LORD is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the LORD are true; each one is fair. 10 They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb.

- g. David meditated on God's Word, day and night here, and notice the wisdom he gained about the science of the world and the truth contained in what he observed simply because he filtered what he saw through God's Word.

Psalms 1:2-3 (NASB) 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. **3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water**, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- i. Was David firmly planted? We see an example of a prayer he prayed when he was being chased and hunted by Saul who wanted to kill David:

1. **Psalms 142:1-5 (NLT)** 1 A psalm of David, regarding his experience in the cave. A prayer. I cry out to the LORD; I plead for the LORD's mercy. 2 I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles. 3 When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn. Wherever I go, my enemies have set traps for me. 4 I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me. 5 Then I pray to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life.

- a. I - David uses the personal pronoun I **10** times. This is a very personal prayer for him. The more we immerse ourselves in His Word the more we get to know Him on a personal level.

- i. David shows us here that this isn't his parent's faith, this isn't his preacher's faith or the faith of the person discipling him, this is David's faith. He has taken ownership of it. Notice the last line: "*You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life.*"

Psalms 1:2-3 (NASB) 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf **does not wither**; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

- ii. **Psalms 119:28,49 (NASB)** 28 My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word...49 Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope.
- h. When it comes to being a man or woman after God's heart we see a tremendous truth from David. Our hearts must be rooted in His Word. The man or woman who wants to lead a successful life and be a person that can be considered a man or woman after God's own heart will grow in His Word.
- i. How is that done? By understanding what David did, that God's Word is so much more than a list of commandments or a collection of do's and don'ts from a far-off Deity. For David God's Word was something that was real and intimate. God's Word was His Heavenly Father's love note to His child. David desired to read these truths so that he might connect and have his heart molded, changed and linked to his Father's heart. David's relationship with God the Father was vibrant and thriving, is it any coincidence that David's grasp of the Word was the same?
- i. **Psalm 119:2 (ESV)** Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,