

## The Parable of the Sower – Lesson 2

5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

- I. Many teach the Parable of the Sower and teach it from the perspective that there is only one soil that depicts a believer.
  - a. What we see is that there is only one soil that depicts an unbeliever.
  - b. The other three soils depict believers with different heart conditions.
  - c. Allow me to show why I believe this is so. Let's look at verse 5 again, we see that Jesus says:
    - i. **5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.**
      1. **Sprang Up** - exanatellō (eks-ä-nä-te'l-lō) - to start up out of the ground, i.e. germinate - spring up.
        - a. Sprang up means to germinate, or in other words LIFE has begun!
        - b. There are 5 steps in the Germination process.
        - c. Before I tell you those 5 steps I want to first let you know an important analogy that scripture makes about water.

## II. **WHAT IS WATER IN SCRIPTURE**

- a. **John 7:38-39 (NASB)** 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
  - i. Water is a picture of the Holy Spirit
  - ii. It is also a picture of the Word:
    1. **Ephesians 5:26 (NASB)** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
- b. So we can see from these passages that water can be a picture of the Holy Spirit as well as the Word.

## III. **The Seed Germination Process**

- Step 1: Imbibition: water fills the seed.
- Step 2: The water activates enzymes that begin the plant's growth.
- Step 3: The seed grows a root to access water underground.
- Step 4: The seed grows shoots that grow towards the sun.
- Step 5: The shoots grow leaves and begin photomorphogenesis.

- a. A seed doesn't have the opportunity to have life begin until it is first accepted into soil. But while the soil is important for life to begin, life begins when water fills the seed.
- b. For the seed that is the gospel message to have life. We will need to hear it and accept it but that must be coupled with The Spirit taking the message and causing the elements inside that seed to come to life. Step 1 in Germination is water filling the seed. For the Gospel message to have life begin the Spirit must enter in and make it have life for the individual.
- c. The essential elements for life are contained in the seed and must be activated by water on the soil bound seed so that the Message of Life contained in the seed that is the Gospel Message can start.
- d. Is it simply a coincidence that the way a physical seed has life begin would mirror how spiritual life begins? Why would Jesus use this example if it wasn't so?

#### IV. THE MYSTERY & MIRACLE OF SALVATION

- a. This process of new life beginning inside of a believer is a truly mysterious and miraculous thing:
  - i. **2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB)** For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.
    1. In this passage Paul is letting us know that the miracle that God performed for there to be light in the universe did a miracle on the same level by allowing us to have Light shine out of the complete darkness of our hearts in order that we might believe.

#### b. A NEW CREATION

- i. Just like the miracle that is a small seed becoming a brand new thing we are told that the same happens for us:
- ii. **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB)** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

#### c. THE IRREVERSIBILITY OF SALVATION - Guiding Principle

- i. Guiding Principle – These are things that are essential for understanding scripture accurately, which in turn, allows us to have a healthy relationship with Him.
- ii. A Guiding Principle in scripture is that once Spiritual Life has started it cannot be reversed.
  1. **John 10:27-30 (NASB)** 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 "I and the Father are one."
  2. **2 Timothy 2:11-13 (NASB95)** 11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; 12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us; 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

- iii. Notice what it is that keeps our Salvation protected, it's God's power that does it. Once Spiritual Life has started it can't be undone.

#### V. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE OF ETERNAL SECURITY ILLUSTRATED IN THE SEED & SOIL

- a. Just like the process of Germination can't be reversed or undone there is no undoing your Salvation.
- b. Can you imagine the difficulty of taking that sprouted plant that has broken through and come out of the seed and somehow getting it all back in the seed? Even if one could how would you keep the seed shut, the seal that has kept it shut has been destroyed and unable to reattach because there is no longer any life in that shell casing that was containing the plant.
- c. It's like trying to put toothpaste back in the bottle! It won't work.
- d. And in just the same way that the process of Germination can't be undone neither can your Salvation be undone.
- e. The enemy only takes the seed from the first soil not the other three.

#### VI. BACK TO THE SOWER AND SOILS PASSAGE

**5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.**

- a. **Withered away** - We Must Apply the Guiding Principle Here. Life has started. If Life has started and cannot be undone
- b. **Withering** - xērainō (ksā-rī'-nō) - to become dry, to be dry, be withered
  - i. Withering means to become dry. How does something become dry? It doesn't receive water.
  - ii. If we don't remain in His word what else would we expect to happen? We will wither much like a plant that withers without water. Jesus says as much in John 15:
    1. **John 15:5-6 (NASB)** 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and **dries up**; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.
- c. **6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.**
  - i. We see in our passage that when the sun had risen these plants were scorched and they withered away.
  - ii. Did the plants **wither away** because the sun had risen? No! We are told in the passage that it's because they had no root.
  - iii. To fully grasp this let's go back to the process of Germination:

Step 1: Imbibition: water fills the seed.

Step 2: The water activates enzymes that begin the plant's growth.

Step 3: The seed **grows a root** to access water underground.

Step 4: The seed grows shoots that grow towards the sun.

Step 5: The shoots grow leaves and begin photomorphogenesis.

- iv. Notice that it is not until step 3 that a root begins to grow. Notice what it is that is causing this root to grow: **WATER**.
- v. Water can be a picture in scripture of The Holy Spirit and The Word.
- vi. Notice again it's water that causes enzymes inside of a seed to move and work which then cause a root to begin to grow.
- vii. Notice what the root is wanting to grow towards...it's trying to grow towards the storehouses of water that are in the ground so that it's root system will be nourished and strong and sturdy for the plant.
  1. *"You can't see it, but a large portion of the world's freshwater lies underground. It may all start as precipitation, but through infiltration and seepage, water soaks into the ground in vast amounts. Water in the ground keeps all plant life alive and serves peoples' needs, too...Water may travel long distances or remain in groundwater storage for long periods before returning to the surface or seeping into other water bodies, such as streams and the oceans."*  
<https://www.usgs.gov/special-topics/water-science-school/science/infiltration-and-water-cycle>
  2. **Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NASB)** 7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. 8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit.
- viii. A believer that is grounded in the word (water) and walking in the Spirit (water) just becomes more and more sturdy.

## VII. SO HAVE WE INTERPRETED THIS ACCURATELY?

**6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.**

- a. Notice what Jesus says when He gives the explanation to His disciples:
  - i. **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.**
    1. **this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy** - Jesus is telling us that this person's heart received the message, not only received it but received it with joy.
  - ii. So, what has happened, the soil has received the message and we know life has happened because Jesus said in verse 5 that this seed germinated and "sprung up".
    1. **6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.**

- a. **When the sun had risen** - what is the sun? We see in verse 21 the sun is affliction and persecution.
2. **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**
    - a. Notice also in verse 21 that Jesus tells us why this persecution arises "because of the word". There's a truth that Jesus is telling us here: If you are a believer you will be persecuted and you will have afflictions.
    - b. Here is what scripture has to say about believers and persecution:
      - i. **Luke 21:17 (NASB)** and you will be hated by all because of My name.
      - ii. **John 15:18,25 (NASB)** "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before [it hated] you...25 "But [they have done this] to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'

#### VIII. JAMES TELLS US HOW TO VIEW PERSECUTION

- a. **James 1:2-4 (NASB)** 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- b. Peter tells us that we ought to expect persecution and affliction.
  - i. **1 Peter 4:12 (NASB)** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;
- c. Why should we not be surprised?
  - i. **John 12:31 (NASB)** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- d. Satan is the ruler of this world.
- e. When Adam and Eve fell, he gained dominion over this world. God is still in control but Satan has been allowed to rule for a period of time.
- f. If Satan has dominion for a short while, is it any wonder why Christians are persecuted? If Satan were given his way, he'd destroy you if allowed.
- g. So, here's what we know: Trials are coming, afflictions are coming. **What determines whether or not a believer will navigate those trials well?**
- h. Jesus tells us in our passage, notice why the person in verses about the rocky soil is scorched:
  - i. **6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away...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.**

1. Notice, it's not the trials that caused the person to fall away or wither. Jesus says it's "because they had no root".
  2. As we've discussed some would like to say that this is evidence that this person wasn't truly a believer.
  3. Guiding Principle - Once Life has happened it can't be undone.
  4. What Jesus is attempting to help us see is that unless I, as a believer, am being rooted in His Word I am going to be a: SHALLOW CHRISTIAN.
  5. As believers we must be growing in His accurate Word (with the correct doctrine or principles, i.e., a pure stream).
- ii. If we are not growing in His Accurate Word, it's as if we are seeds growing a root into something that is nourishing us but also poisoning us at the same time!

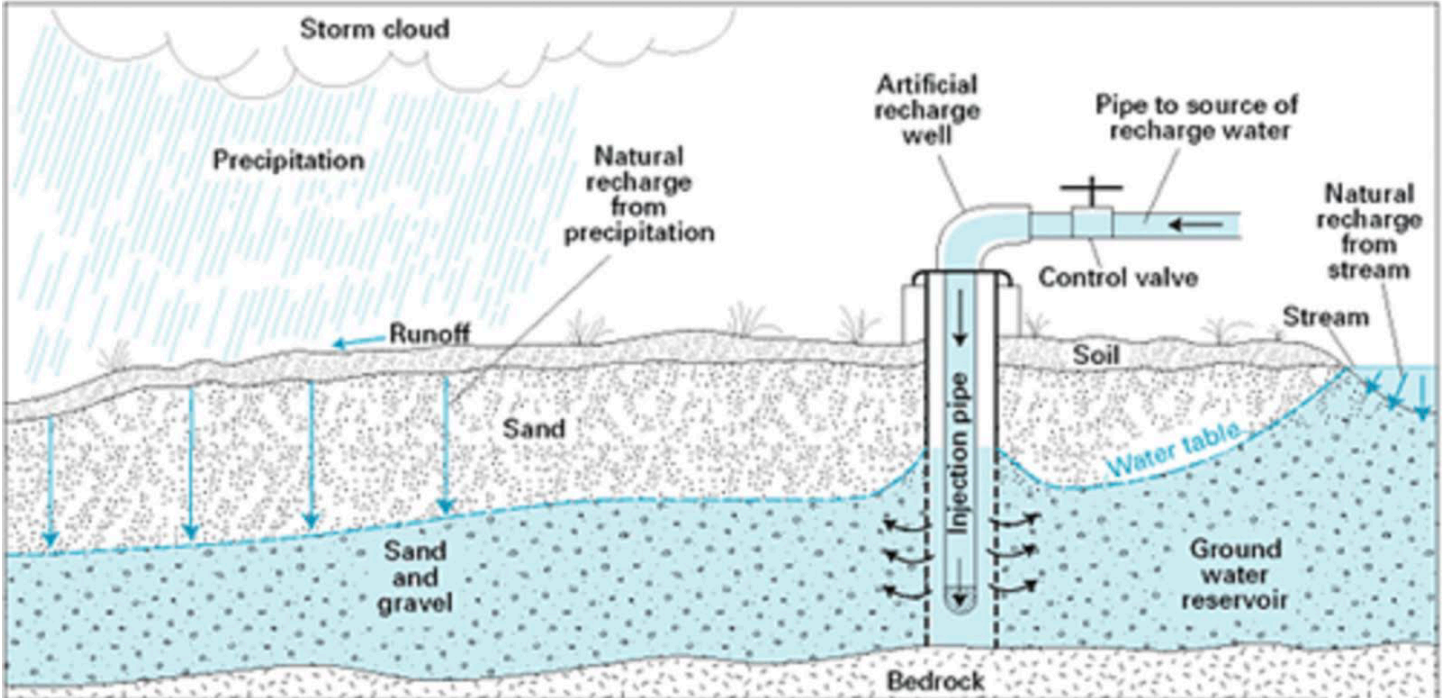
1. **Psalms 1:2-3 (NASB)** 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

**i. NOTICE WHAT JESUS SAID TO BELIEVERS ABOUT HOW TO BE DISCIPLES**

- i. **John 8:31-32 (NASB)** 31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
  1. A disciple is a pupil, in other words a student or someone who is consistently studying.
  2. Jesus is saying if you will continue staying in my word or being watered, you will learn truth and truth will make you free. It's staying in the word that's effective.
  3. Here is our truth, we will only get through the trials that are surely to come in this life by being rooted and grounded in the word
  4. I would encourage you today, if you see yourself as this soil. As a soil that doesn't have a root grounded in the Word, would you pray to Him? Would you pray to Him that He might show you how to develop a heart that might desire His Word. To develop a heart that in time will move from reading His Word to one that meditates on it. That He might show you what that looks like in your life?



Natural and artificial recharge of groundwater



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