

Parable of The Sower – Session 5

- I. **Matthew 13:23 (NASB) 23 "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."**
- a. We are going to take a bit of a detour this morning to start this study.
 - b. Do you realize that you are known? You are known by the most important individual there is to be known by. The Sovereign Creator of the Universe.
 1. **Jeremiah 1:5a (NASB95)** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."
 2. **1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB95)** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.
 - i. **Known** - epiginōskō (ep-ig-in-ocē'-ko) - to be(come) thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to understand
 - a. by sight, hearing
 - c. At the deepest part of every man, woman and child is the deep need to know that I am known.
 - d. How beautiful is it that God, in His deep love, wisdom and care for us lets us know this very thing. He not only knows us, He knew us!
- II. **Matthew 13:23 (NASB) 23 "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."**
- a. **Fruit** - karpos (kar-pos') - that which originates or comes from something, an effect, result.
 1. Work, act, deed
 - b. **Ephesians 2:10 (NASB)** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
 1. **Beforehand** - proetoimazō (pro-e-toi-mä'-zō) - to prepare before, to make ready beforehand
 - i. **Aorist tense and Indicative mood** - Occurred in the past at a specific point.
 - ii. Here is more evidence that He knew you before He formed you. Notice when He prepared works just for you...beforehand!
 - iii. He has prepared works that are perfectly suited and tailor made to you, specifically you!
 - a. **Psalms 32:8 (NIV)** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
 2. The fruit spoken of in the Parable of The Sower is synonymous with the works that God has already laid up for us. They are the same thing.

- c. What was Jesus' main focus or point for the Parable of The Sower?
 - 1. It was not to teach about Justification!
 - 2. It was to teach people how important it is to have a healthy heart for the Sanctification portion of our journey, so He can produce the fruit He has set aside specifically for you.
 - 3. How much we miss in this story if we only see it about Justification!
 - i. **2 John 1:8b (NLT)** 8...Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.

d. Be diligent in what?

- 1. **John 15:4-5 (NASB)** 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 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.

III. Receiving Our Full Reward

a. Notice an important point that Jesus says in our passage again:

- 1. **23 "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. **Some hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty** - When you hear some hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty does your mind tend to want to go to this place of ranking who was more successful in their journey by the quantity of their production? Mine does! But I want us to see a passage that ought to help us rethink about how Jesus views our fruit.
- 2. Jesus gave us some insight into this as well in the following passage:
 - i. **Matthew 25:14-29 (NLT)** 14 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last--dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip. 16 "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. 17 The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. 18 But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. 19 "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. 20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.' 21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' 22 "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master,

you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' 23 "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' 24 "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' 26 "But the master replied, 'You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, 27 why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.' 28 "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

3. Notice in this passage an important thing is stated by Jesus:
 - i. **Matthew 25:15 (NLT)** 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last--dividing it in proportion to their abilities.
4. God knows what you are capable of. He's the one who gave you the ability and also the extent of that ability to produce fruit.
5. How does He know the proportion to give? He created you, He knows you, He knows your story and how it will unfold and what you'll be capable of.
6. This is a principle all through scripture:
 - i. **Romans 12:3 (NASB)** For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
7. Just like the measure of faith He's given, there are gifts He has given each of us. He wants to work through us, through those gifts He's given, so that we might accomplish tasks, tasks that He prepared for you a very long time ago:
 - i. **Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - a. These gifts and works He has for you and I were not only prepared for us a very long time ago but they have also been given in proportion to our abilities. We are simply to accomplish what He's already set aside ahead of time for us to do.
 - b. Notice something very important: **20 The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, 'Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.'** 21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's

celebrate together!' 22 "The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.' 23 "The master said, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

- i. Notice God doesn't get upset with the 2 bags of silver servant who presented Him with 2 more. God doesn't say why didn't you produce 5 like this other one.
 - ii. He actually gives the 2 bags of silver producing servant the exact same praise as the 5 bags of silver producing servant.
 - iii. Why? Because it was based on the proportion He had given and planned for them.
 - iv. This is why we ought not look at other people to measure ourselves.
 - v. Also notice that God says you have handled a "*small amount*" but in exchange He gives "*many more responsibilities*".
 - vi. God's intention is for you and I's responsibilities to be so much more in the future than here and now. What we handle now is small in comparison! Awesome!
8. It's the person who was given a gift or talent and squandered it whom He was upset with.
- i. **24 "Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, 'Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. 25 I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.'**
 - a. **Notice how this servant views his master** – Cruel and sinister ("*harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate*")
 - b. **Here's truth for us** – How we view Him will have a direct impact on the success of our sanctification walk. Is He cruel and calculating (Whack-a-Mole)?
 - b. The Good Soil is a picture of the believer who is saved and then lives a life that Jesus calls successful.
 - c. Success in the Christian life = allowing Him to work through us to accomplish what He's already planned for us to accomplish.
 - d. How is that accomplished then? By having a healthy, vibrant relationship with Him or as John 15 says, Abiding in Him.
 - e. Let's be reminded of some important points this passage highlights:
 1. We are not OWNERS we are STEWARDS of the gifts or talents He has given us. They are His and He distributes.
 2. He knows each of us well enough to know exactly what is the appropriate amount to ask of us because of our ability. In other words He doesn't ask more than we are capable and only gives the gifts or talents in that measure.

3. On top of that, it is God who then works through us to accomplish this measure. We are simply vessels.
4. The ones whom He will produce the most abundant fruit through are the ones who truly understand the Grace He used to save them, because it will be that same Grace that He uses to sanctify them.
 - i. **Colossians 2:6,8 (NASB)** 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

IV. **23 "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."**

- a. Now taking all of this into account what have you and I done to deserve the gifts, the abilities or the praise for utilizing those abilities. NOTHING!
- b. BUT let's read what He has to say to us when He sees us:
 1. **Matthew 25:21 (NLT)** 21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'
 - i. **Celebrate** - the blessedness which the Lord enjoys,
 - a. **Matthew 25:21 (NASB)** "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'
 - ii. God, quite literally, invites us into a joy or the blessedness that He experiences. He invites us into it. All because we allowed Him to do the things He had planned to do in us before we were born.
 - iii. He says that brings Him joy and that it's worth celebrating!
 - iv. Remarkable!