

Parable of the Sower - Matthew 13

Jeremiah Gonda - February 23, 2024

I. INTRODUCTION - (Matthew 13:1-23 & 34)

- A. Jesus is a master at sowing and reaping (previous verses in Matthew 13)
- B. Parables are ingenious tools to reveal motives, convict of sin, and turn hearts to the Lord
- C. Up until this time Jesus was not fully employing parables to teach in the way He was that day. The people He had been ministering to were “seeing” His miracles and “hearing” His words, but not receiving His ministry. Vs 10-15
- D. “But blessed are your eyes!” vs 16 Do we walk in a posture that is open and receptive towards God?
- E. Open eyes are granted to disciples of Jesus who have answered the call and counted the loss, and have left all behind to follow Jesus. The riches of His Word that come with the benefit of His discipleship are protected by Jesus Himself the Great Shepherd.
- F. Nature shows us that a lot of fruit is protected by outside coverings and even shells in some cases. It’s only accessible to those who have the hunger to go after it. Only Christ can unlock the truth of His Word and those of us dependent upon Him through the ministry of the Holy Spirit can understand and receive His word. This hinders the enemy from ravishing the work that God is doing in willing hearts.

II. Jesus Casts and Sows His Seed by the Sea Side

- A. Matthew 13:1-3 Jesus goes out of the house and by the sea to minister
- B. He uses parables to teach the multitudes. Parables are “Earthly stories with heavenly meaning.” - David Guzik
- C. Jesus sits in a boat and the multitudes stand on the beach. (Different from today as commentators have mentioned.) Isaiah 32:20 (NASB95) How blessed will you be, you who sow beside all waters, Who let out freely the ox and the donkey.
- D. Jesus was stepping way outside religious norms to reach the masses. His heart was to reconcile the people to His father. He was laboring to bring the outcast and rejected into the fold.
- E. Vs. 9 - “He who has ears. Let him hear.”

III. The Four Soils - Posture of the Heart

- A. Beside the Road - Vs 4, High traffic and no root. Trodden with the business of life, eaten by the birds of the air (Vs.19 - He who hears but does not understand. The enemy snatches it).
- B. Rocky Places - Vs.5, No depth of soil, quickly receives but no depth of roots.(Vs. 20 - Cannot endure the day to day challenges that come because of the Word)
- C. Among the Thorns - Vs. 7, Thorns choke them out (Vs. Soil that’s good for growing things, perhaps too good because thorns grow as well and choke out the good seed.

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These are the cares and worries of the world and deceitfulness of riches. This applies to the rich and poor.)

- D. Good Soil - Vs. 8, this is fertile ground where the seed is received and understood. Good fruit grows up and yields an abundant harvest. (Vs. 23 - The one who hears the Word and understands it.)

IV. The Holy Spirit Prepares the Soil of Our Hearts

- A. 1 Corinthians 2:10-16 The hidden truths of God are not mystical secrets that are hard to understand. They are truths that must be unpackaged in the heart of the believer by the Spirit of God. This is a personal application for those of us that are already committed followers of Jesus. The ministry of the Word is vital to our growth and maturity as believers. It also applies to how we sow the Word of God to the "multitudes". We are all called to be sowers, Mark 16:15 (NASB95) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. The Holy Spirit will direct us in sharing the Gospel to all who are in our field of influence. Every heart is in a different place and while only God knows the intricate details of every person's heart, we can use the truths of this parable to be better sowers.