

Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23)

Matthew 13:3

And he spake to them many things in parables, saying,
Behold, the sower
went forth to sow;

4 and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the birds came and devoured them:

5 and others fell upon the rocky places, where they had not much earth: and straightway they sprang up, because they had no deepness of earth:

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

7 And others fell upon
the thorns;
and the thorns grew
up and choked them:

8 and others fell upon the good ground, and yielded fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 He that hath ears,
let him hear.

**When Jesus told a parable,
it was most often a story
right out of the
daily life of his audience**

**He used familiar scenes,
people and activities.**

Today we will look at one of the most familiar of all the parables

- **The Parable of the Sower**

Matthew 13:3-9; 18-23

- A very simple story, yet full of truth.
- In it, Jesus says that those who hear the message of God are **responsible** for how they hear it

THE PARABLE AS JESUS TOLD IT

In the context Jesus is the Sower,
but it would apply to anyone who
teaches the word of God

1 Corinthians 3:6

I planted,
Apollos watered,
but God gave the increase.

Matt 13:9

He who has ears to hear,
let him hear!

This seems to be the point
Jesus is making.

As the same seed fell
on different kinds of soil,

it was the condition of of the soil that
determined whether it grew or not

The Seed

Luke 8:11

Now the parable is this:
The seed is the word of God.

Mark 4:14

The sower sows the word.

1 Peter 1:23

having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,...

Matthew 13:4

**And when he sowed,
some *seeds* fell
by the way side ...**

Many go to the house of God
without the slightest desire
to profit by what they hear.

The word spoken
has not the least effect
upon their hearts.

It makes no impression whatever.

They allow Satan to snatch it away,
as soon as it falls.

Has not God sent us a message?

Does He tell us of our sins,
and of a gracious Savior
who can deliver us from them?

Does He speak to us of heaven and hell?

Are these things nothing to us

Lamitations 1:12

***Is it nothing to you,
all you that pass by?***

Matthew 13:5

**Some fell upon
stony places,
where they had
not much earth:
and forthwith
they sprung up,**

From this portion of the Parable
we learn there may be
strong feelings in a person.

There may be a
stirring of the conscience

All this may take place;
and yet there may be

no conversion
and no fruit

showing itself in a changed life.

We also learn that in each life
there is a trying time.

Just as the cutting winds,
the nipping frost,
the scorching drought,
all try the tender blade of corn,
whether it will endure only for a while,
or whether it is rooted deeply,
every Christian has his/her trials too.

Difficulties spring up.

Some imagine religion an
easy matter,
but soon finds that the
gate is strait,
the way narrow.

Sin must be put away,
and **the heart** weaned
from things which it used to love.

And there is
persecution
to be borne.

Be it the **storm**,

Or the **sunshine**
and warm breezes.

**Jesus was concerned
with how people listen.**

Mark 4:24

**Then He said to them,
"Take heed what you hear."**

It is true of worship.

The more we bring

to worship in

God's house

the more we will get.

When we come to worship
in the house of God,
there are
three wrong ways
in which we may come.

1st We may come entirely to get.

If we come in such a way the likelihood is that we will criticize the Bible School teacher and the song leader and find fault with the preaching.

We will regard the whole service as a performance for our special entertainment.

We must come prepared to give;
we must remember that
worship is a corporate act,
and that each of us
can contribute something to it.

If we ask, not,

"What can I get out of this service?" but,

"What can I contribute to this service?"

We will get more out of it
than if we simply came to take.

2nd We may come
without expectation.

Our coming may be
the result of habit and routine.

It may be simply just another
activity of the week.

But, we should expect
to meet God.

3rd We may come
without preparation.

It is so easy to leave for the
worship of God's house
with no preparation
of mind or heart
because we in such a rush
to get to the building.

It would make all the difference
in the world, if, before we came,
we took a moment
to meet God in prayer.

As the Rabbis told their disciples:
"They pray best together
who first pray alone."

It is also true of
personal relationships.

One of the great facts of life is that
we see our reflection in other people.

If we are cross and irritable, bad-tempered, critical, fault-finding, suspicious and distrustful then
we will probably find other people
equally unpleasant.

If we wish others to love us,
we must first love them.

The man who would have
friends must show himself
friendly.

It was because
Jesus believed in men
that men believed in him.

In life there is
always a balance.

Getting is determined
by **giving.**

This is true of **Bible study.**

The **deeper** the study
the **greater** the reward.

(2 Tim 2:15)

**The different soils
illustrate
the different ways
people respond
to the word**

Prejudice

(they do not love truth)

2Thessalonians 2:10

because they

received not the love

of the truth,

that they might be saved.

Convinced, but wrong!
(Zeal but no knowledge)

**Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's
desire and my supplication to God is
for them, that they may be saved.**

**2 For I bear them witness that they
have a zeal for God,
but not according to knowledge.**

Captured by sin

(Hardened by deceitfulness of sin)

Hebrews 3:13

but exhort one another day by day, ... lest any one of you be

hardened by the
deceitfulness of sin:

Stubbornness

Acts 7:51

Ye stiffnecked
and uncircumcised
in heart and ears,
ye do always resist the Holy
Spirit: as your fathers did,
so do ye.

Procrastination

Hebrews 4:7

To-day

if ye shall hear his voice,
Harden not your hearts.

Pride

John 12:43

for they loved the glory

that is of men

more than the glory

that is of God.

Arrogance
(Puffed up in mind)

Colossians 2:18

**Let no man
rob you of your prize
by being vainly puffed up
by his fleshly mind,**

Matthew 13:20

But he that received
the seed into
stony places,
the same is he that
hears the word,
and with joy receives it;

Matthew 13:21

Yet has he
not root in himself,
but endures for a while:
for when tribulation or
persecution arises
because of the word,
by and by he is offended.

Now, this describes those whom we may call Shallow and Unstable Hearers.

Who listen attentively enough to the word, while the Minister declares it.

There is no opposition to it.

No cold rejection of God's message;

but, on the contrary,
a willing acceptance of it.

The heart welcomes it;
and it awakens a joy
in the soul.

There is some hope,
for the moment, that
the heart is touched.

But, alas! it is only
the surface of the water that is ruffled.

The arrow has only grazed the skin,
and then glanced off again.

The feelings are only roused for an instant;
but the inner man
remains much as it was before.

A serious thought or two comes across
the mind;
and presently all passes away.

Is it not so with many?

Has it ever been so with you?

There has, perhaps, been an inward joy,
when the Word was spoken.

You felt for the moment as if sin was hateful to
you, as if Christ was precious, and as if you
could give your whole heart to God.

Your soul was warmed within you.

What joy had it only lasted!

Matthew 13:22

He also that received seed
among the thornes ...

This is still some hope here.

His heart is impressed.

He goes away with new and altered feelings, and honestly resolves to carry them out.

He sees the hatefulness of sin, and determines to forsake it.

He sees the beauty of holiness, and has a taste of

“the good word of God.”

(Hebrews 6:5)

But he has not
counted the cost.

He soon finds that many
temptations
cross his path.

Matthew 7:14

... strait *is* the gate,
and narrow *is* the way,
which leadeth unto
life, and few there be
that find it.

Let me now put a few things
before us, which this Parable
clearly teaches.

1st. It teaches that our
hearts must be prepared
to receive the good seed of His truth.

Do we not **prepare the field**
before scattering grain over it?

What if you should only run the plough through it here and there, and leave patches of it hard and unbroken.

Could you expect an even crop? Certainly not.

Then, why act differently with your own heart?

Ask God to make your hard heart soft,
to remove your blindness,
your stubbornness,
your unbelief.

Mark 9:24

**Lord, I believe;
help thou mine unbelief.**

The next time you sit down to read your Bible at home, or go to Church,

kneel down beforehand
for a minute or two,

and entreat God to prepare your heart,
and to enable you to receive with
“meekness His engrafted Word”.

(James 1:21)

2nd. We may learn that in order to hear a sermon profitably, something more is needed than mere attention.

A person may sit and listen very quietly;
and yet carry nothing away with him.

A person may remember every word of a
sermon, so as to be able to talk about it;

and yet he may be but
a “ wayside ” hearer

The ears may have been open,
and yet the heart closed.

Matthew 13:4

and as he sowed,
some *seeds* fell by the
way side,

The understanding may be fed, but the heart empty.

We may be able to talk
about a sermon,
and
yet feel no desire
to act upon it.

3dly. Beware of becoming hardened.

In life we find young men and women
and old people too
with very hard hearts.

Nothing seems to move them.

Past feeling with their consciences
numbed and callous.

What a fearful state to be in!

Better to be alarmed, and
anxious, and even miserable,
than to be, as St. Paul says,
"past feeling!"
(**Ephesians 4:19**)

Remember, Sin hardens the heart.

Worldliness hardens it.

And even the gospel itself hardens it,
when it is often heard, but not heeded.

This is the worst hardness of all when
any one is "ever hearing,"
and "never comes to the
knowledge of the truth."
(**2 Timothy 3:7**).

4th. We are reminded in this Parable that there is an Evil Spirit ever hovering about us.

“Then cometh
the wicked one”
says our Lord.

And when does he come?

Wherever the good seed
is being sown,

He enters the very house of God.

He is one of the first who comes,

and one of the last who goes.

When we pray in our
secret chamber,
he is sure to be there,
trying to dart
into our minds the
most trifling thoughts.

When we read our Bibles,
he tries to
draw off our attention,
and to darken
the light of God's truth,
as it glimmers
upon our souls.

When we are upon our
knees in God's house,
he is by our side,
and whispers to us
about the world, and
even about sin.

Be on the watch then.

There is in the Gospel
a precious treasure.

Seize hold of it while it is offered to
you, and make it yours.

Take care that
no one snatches it from you.

There is one thing
specially to be observed
in this Parable.

It is that
three unprofitable kinds
of Hearing are described,
and **only one** who hears
has any lasting effect.

This sadly reminds us that
on a large portion of mankind
God's Word is thrown away.

Their hearts are
not in a state to receive it,
and be blessed by it.

Few only bring forth fruit
unto life eternal.

May the Lord,
who spoke this
Parable of the Sower,
make it
a warning
and
a blessing
to our souls!

Doors of the church
are open.

Spirit & Bride Say
“Come”.

(Revelation 22:17)