

12- Parable of the Seed and Sower Mark 4:3-9;14-24

The Master unfolds for us four parables in this section of *Mark 4:3-34*. We look at the first of these in this session. This is the parable of the seed and sower. This parable is one that causes us to take a deep inner perspective look at our lives. It should cause us to look and examine and answer the question of if our faith is real.

Let's understand a few things as we enter this parable. 1- The Seed is the Word of God. 2- The sower is someone who shares the Word of God. *Psalms 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.. 1 Corinthians 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.* God gave the increase. 3- The soil represents the human heart.

I- The Parable Expounded:

Mark 4:3-9 Harken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: 4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. 5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: 6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. 8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. 9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Jesus told us about a man who went out to sow and scattered the seed. Some fell by the wayside and the birds ate it. Some fell on stony ground and died from lack of roots to support it. The third is sown among the thorns and weeds and gets choked out. The final one is seed that fell on good ground.

II- The Parable Explained:

Mark 4:14 The sower soweth the word. This is someone who is sowing the Word, the gospel of Christ.

Mark 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

The first one we see is the hard heart of the wayside, someone who does not have any desire for the things of God. The only way for this type of soil to receive the Word of God is if the Holy Spirit plows the ground.

Mark 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

The next heart is one that reminds me of someone who walks the isle, professed they are saved, and may even join the church, get baptized and then they disappear. Troubles do one of two things, drive us into the arms of God or drive a wedge in our hearts toward Him. I submit that true faith, someone who is truly saved, will do the first.

Mark 4:18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

The next heart is one is one where the seed falls among the thorns. This heart is one that tries to allow weeds to grow and still maintain their faith. A servant with this type of heart will be one who commits but does not carry through. They want the prestige but not the work.

Mark 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

Then the last heart is the one where the soil is right. This is the heart that every one of us looks for. Notice that the sower continues to sow and realized that much of the seed will not take fruit and grow into a salvation experience. This heart is the one that hears the word and fastens onto the words of life and regardless of what comes into their life will not renounce their faith. The seed brings forth fruit in their life many times over what was planted. They receive the word unlike the hard heart, they understand it unlike the shallow heart, they hold fast to it unlike the crowded heart. They are saved, beloved.

III- The Parable Applied:

Mark 4:21-24 And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? 22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. 23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. 24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

We must never lose faith that the human heart can change. Some of those who will not hear will in time become good soil. Some of those who are shallow may return and become deep believers. Some of the lost church members will realize this and become believers. We must continue to sow and must also not neglect the admonition of Christ, "*who hath ear to hear, let him hear.*"

Which type of soil are you? Which heart is the seed of the Word of God being sown into with you? God sees and knows, nothing is hide.