

PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED

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What is a parable?

- Compares something familiar with something unfamiliar
- An earthly story with a heavenly meaning
- A story that illustrates a lesson
- Can be used as a measure as to how you are hearing

Why parables?

Nathan the prophet had to go and confront the king - parable of the Ulan - something familiar to king David and then he turned to God

Matthew 13: 10-13 why do you speak to people in parables? The knowledge of the kingdom of heaven as been given to you and not to them. Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

Old saying "I know what I am saying but I don't know what you are hearing"

Matthew 13:3-9 A farmer went out to sow some seed....

He who has ears let him hear - some of us will hear the gospel and some of us won't hear it.

Matthew 18-23

Constants In the parable

1. The seed - word of God (in Mark and Luke)

Heb 4:12 the word of God is living and active and sharper than any double edged sword

2. All heard the word - on some level, some fell on different places.

Why was there 4 different outcomes?

It all comes down to the condition of the heart of the hearer

Four different heart conditions

1. Wayside hearer - seed that fell on the hard path -

hard hearted person represented

Difficult people to communicate with.

Resistance to gospel

Birds represents Satan, doubt, pride, criticism, mockery, unbelief

2. Stony ground hearer - shallow person

They receive the word with joy and then it goes away and they are not here anymore

They may become offended - someone will offend you in church life

Takes a deeper kind of love to overcome and move on, forgive and continue to love

We need to get the word into us to meditate on it and soften our heart so it will become more pliable

We need to be like a Cow - get in the word, meditate and chew on it

3. Thorny ground hearer - all sorts of things come and compete with the word, of God thorns and weeds eg. Deceitfulness of wealth, influences of life

Attack the worry times with the word of God to turn it into prayer times

Worry is faith in reverse

Deceitfulness of riches - constantly needing/wanting more

If we are continually looking at ways to give less - we will not grow and be free.

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Giving gives you a freedom

Learn to give until you love it

Give in proportion to what you have

4. Good ground hearer - good, honest, noble, virtuous, worthy, loyal, faithful

This is the only hearer that produce fruit

Gardening - you have to get the soil right before we plant

We are Responsible for the condition of our heart

Luke - persevering and faithfulness

We have a depth in this church that will produce good fruit

Sometimes we can have good soil in one area and yet stony soil in others

Sow a word into our lives.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day that the lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it

4 different heart conditions can hear this and respond:

1. I'm not going to rejoice, that is for someone else

2. I would like to but I just can't, too hard

3. I want to, but will forget about it

4. I am going to take this word on. Write it down and meditate in it and do it, becomes part of who you are

More scriptures to sow into your life

Romans 12:2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind

Phil 4:8 whatever is good, think on these things

Corinthians - take every thought captive into the obedience of Christ

Began to take negative thoughts and replace them it good thoughts.

Where is your heart today? What condition is it in?