

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. In the background of the parable of the sower, the scribes and Pharisees did not want to hear what Jesus had to say.
2. The parable of the sower is not about evangelism. It is about how you and I listen to scripture.

I. NO RECEPTION

- A. Chapter One: The seeds that fell by the wayside.
 1. **MATTHEW 13.3,4:** *“some seed fell by the wayside...”*
 2. **MATTHEW 13.18,19:** *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it...”*
- B. Some brethren fit this description. (2 Tim. 4.3)

II. NO ROOT

- A. Chapter Two: The seeds that fell on stony ground.
 1. **MATTHEW 13.5,6:** *“Some fell on stony places...”*
 2. **MATTHEW 13.20,21:** *“yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while.”* He has no depth.
- B. Some brethren fit this description. (2 Tim. 3.12)

III. NO RESISTENCE

- A. Chapter Three: The seeds that fell among the thorns
 1. **MATTHEW 13.7:** *“And some fell among thorns...”*
 2. **MATTHEW 13.22:** *“the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word”*
- B. Some brethren fit that description. (1 Tim. 6.6-10)

IV. RESULTS

- A. Chapter Four: The seeds that fell on good soil.
 1. **MATTHEW 13.8:** *“But others fell on good ground...”*
 2. **MATTHEW 13.23:** *“he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it”*
- B. Some brethren fit that description. (2 Pet. 3.18)

CONCLUSION: Is your worship acceptable to God?

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

September 29, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

ON WHOM TO DO RELY?

Where we put our trust tells us a lot about ourselves. If a person puts their trust in themselves relying on their own abilities and resourcefulness, it could indicate an inability to trust others. Perhaps they once trusted in someone who let them down. There are some who put their trust in money believing that they will always be protected as long as they have enough (Ecc. 5.10; Prov. 23.5). There are some who put their trust in others. It is such a blessing to be able to have friends and family on whom you can rely, but we are all human, and sometimes we make mistakes and let you down.

Where should we put our trust? Consider the example of King Asa. King Asa the king of Judah. As it happened, he was attacked by the King of Israel. To help fight against Israel, King Asa turned to the Syrians (2 Chr. 16.3). Shortly after, a prophet condemned King Asa *“because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the Lord your God”* (2 Chr. 16.7). Later, this same king contracted a disease in his feet. Again, he relied on someone other than God. He was condemned again because *“in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians”* (2 Chr. 16.12).

In all of life’s circumstances, we ought to put our trust in the One who *“will never leave you nor forsake you”* (Heb. 13.5) CLP

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:3

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus taught many of His lessons through the use of parables.
2. The parable of the sower is the most important of all the parables of Jesus. (Mark 4.13)

I. THE BACKGROUND

- A. The Pharisees were trying to discredit His miracle.
 1. The people were amazed after seeing Jesus heal a man who was blind and mute. (Matt. 12.22,23)
 2. **MATTHEW 12.24:** *“Now when the Pharisees heard it”* They accused Jesus of working with the devil.
 3. **MATTHEW 12.25-27:** *“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.”* It didn’t make any sense.
 4. **MATTHEW 12.28-30:** *“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God.”* It was the power of the Holy Spirit.
 5. **MATTHEW 12.31-37:** *“the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven”* They spoke from their heart.
- B. The scribes were trying to discredit His message.
 1. **MATTHEW 12.38:** *“Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”* Prove that You can speak to us this way.
 2. **MATTHEW 12.39:** *“No sign shall be given”* (Rom. 1.4)
- C. **MATTHEW 13.1:** *“On the same day...”* With this background, Jesus teaches the parable of the sower.

II. THE POINT OF THE PARABLE

- A. The point is in the parable.
 1. Jesus gets their attention. (Matt. 13.3; Mark 4.3)
 2. Read Matthew 13.4-23: The word “hear” in some form is found 16 times. This is about listening to God.
- B. What is the message we are to hear?
 1. **MATTHEW 13.11,18:** *“the word of the kingdom”*
 2. **LUKE 8.11:** *“The seed is the word of God.”*
 3. We are to listen to what the word of God says about the church. (Matt. 6.33; 16.18,19; 2 Pet. 1.11)
 4. In a culture of universal acceptance, this is a message that is unpopular but critical.

CONCLUSION: How well do you listen to God?

BLESSINGS WE GIVE OUR FAMILIES

Most Christians have members of their family who are not Christians or who have turned their backs on God. How do you deal with a child who has fallen away? How do you interact with a sibling who has rejected God? What about a spouse who is not interested in the gospel? Christians are to be a light to those in darkness (Matt. 5.14-16). We are to be examples to the lost (Phil. 2.14-16). The best place to shine is in our own homes.

We can shine in our homes by always having a willingness to forgive. We are humans who make mistakes. No one sees the mistakes more often than the people we live with every day. When a family member makes a mistake, how do you react? Do you hold a grudge? Do you blow up in anger? Do you give them the silent treatment? Christians are forgiven and are expected to forgive (Matt. 6.14,15). When we are slow to anger and quick to forgive, we show the heart of Jesus to our families.

We can shine in our homes by being nurturing to our families. In Ephesians 5, the church is compared to the home (Eph. 5.32,33). In verse 29, we are told that we are to love our spouse as our own flesh *“for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.”* The word “nourishes” translates a Greek word that means “to promote health and strength” (Mounce). The home is a place to feel safe, supported, and encouraged. You should always be able to know that you can draw strength from your family. When we give support and encouragement to our family, we are showing the nurturing nature of Christ.

We can shine in our homes by displaying a humble spirit. Do you put your family on a pedestal and see their needs as more important than your own (Phil. 2.3,4)? Do you submit to the needs and desires of your spouse (1 Pet. 3.1,7)? In Philippians 2, Jesus is set before us as one *“who made Himself of no reputation.”* (Phil. 2.6). He took on *“the form of a bondservant”* (Phil. 2.7). He sacrificed Himself for the benefit of others. From His example, we are told to *“have this mind in you which is also in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 2.5). When we display a humble spirit putting our family’s needs ahead of our own, we display the humble spirit of Christ.

Are you a blessing to your family? Are you showing the heart of Christ? Do they see Jesus in your life? We can dispel misconceptions and help our families have hope. CLP