

## 45.

### Jesus Explained the Parable of the Soils

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children have their minds transformed as they learn to understand and explain the things that Jesus taught. We saw why Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables. In this topic, we are going to see that Jesus explained the parable of the sower.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand the parable of the sower. Matthew 13:18-19 says, “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.” We saw in an earlier topic that the “wayside” was the word used for the hard dirt paths that went through the grain fields. The seed that landed on the path was quickly eaten by the birds. Now, we are going to see the spiritual truth that Jesus was teaching through that part of the parable of the sower. We see that this parable applies to anyone who hears the Word of God, does not understand and immediately forgets the Word.

We see that this parable is really about the way that Satan works to deceive people in an effort to steal, kill and destroy. The word translated “understand” means *to bring together or to join together in the mind*. In Luke 24:45, we read, “And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” In this verse, there are two different words that could be translated “understanding” or “understand”. The word used in this verse that is translated “understand” in Matthew 13:19, is translated “comprehend”. As a result, we see that Satan wants to take away the Word of God before a person can even think about and comprehend the Word that they have heard.

The word translated “snatches away” means *to seize, to carry away by force or to snatch*. This further shows that the goal of Satan is to immediately take away the Word from the thinking of a person. John 10:12 says, “But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them.” In this verse, we see that the wolf catches the sheep before the sheep even realize that he is there to destroy them. In the same way, when a person hears the Word of God, Satan wants to get them thinking about something else so that they do not even think about the meaning of the Word that they have heard. Such people are not even really listening because their thoughts are about other things while someone is sharing the Word. That is why the hearts of some people are compared to the hard dirt of the path. They hear and forget.

Jesus then explained the meaning of the stony ground. Matthew 13:20-21 says, “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.” The heart which is like stony ground has a different response than the heart that is like the hard path. The heart of a person that is like stony

ground hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy. We notice two positive things about this person. First, this person hears the Word of God. Second, this person receives the Word of God with joy. The word translated “hear” means *to hear and consider what has been said or to understand*. The word translated “receive” means *to take in order to carry away or to receive*. This person does not refuse or reject the Word immediately.

However, this person is lacking one thing. We see that this person has no root in himself. Mark 4:26-29 says, “And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’” Followers of Jesus will sow some seed that does not sprout because it does not develop roots. Colossians 2:6-7 says, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” Those who receive Christ are those who have taken root in Him.

Those who have no root in themselves are those who have not taken root in Christ. They are like the house that was built on the sand and not on the rock. Matthew 7:26-27 says, “‘But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.’” These people will profess to be Christians for a period of time, as long as everything is going good in their lives. The word translated “tribulation” means *something that puts pressure on a person like affliction, trouble or distress*. However, when tribulation or persecution comes because of the Word of God, these people stumble and turn away from Christ.

Jesus went on to explain the meaning of the thorny soil. Matthew 13:22 says, “‘Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.’” We see that those who have hearts that are like thorny soil also hear the Word but the Word does not take root in their hearts either. In this case, we see that the Word is choked by other things. The word translated “cares” means *anxiety or things that cause a person to worry*. Luke 21:34 says, “‘But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.’” In that passage, Jesus is talking about the time of His return. However, the verse shows us that people can become so concerned about the cares and problems of this life that they fail to prepare for the future.

In addition to the cares of this world, we also see that the deceitfulness of riches can choke the Word. 1 Timothy 6:9-10 says, “‘But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.’” People in this group may also claim to be Christians for a period of time. However, their concern about the things of this world

or the desire for riches causes the Word to be choked so that the Word never takes root in their hearts.

Then, Jesus explained the meaning of the seed in the good ground. Matthew 13:23 says, “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” When a person sows seed in a field, most of the seed lands on the good soil where the seed is able to take root, grow and bear fruit. Isaiah 55:11 says, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.” In this verse, we see that the Word of God will accomplish the exact purpose that God has for His Word. It will not return to Him empty. Instead, it will accomplish the will of God. It will prosper in the lives of those in whom He is causing the Word of God to take root.

In our verse, we see that those who receive the seed on good ground have several things happen in their lives. First, we see that they hear the Word of God. Romans 10:17 says, “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Then, Hebrews 4:12 adds, “For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” When a person really hears the Word of God, we see that the Word reveals the thoughts and intents of the heart to that person. Then, 1 Corinthians 14:25 tells us what the Word does when it reveals the condition of the heart. That verse says, “And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on *his* face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.” Here, we see that the Word is able to produce repentance and faith in the heart of a person.

Second, we see that those who receive the seed on good ground understand the Word. This is the result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit working in the lives of those who truly hear the Word of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10 talks about the Word and says, “But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” Here, we see that it is the Holy Spirit that gives understanding to those in whose hearts the Word takes root. 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 goes on to say, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” Ephesians 2:8-9 explains, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Third, we see that when the Word is received, it bears fruit in the lives of those who receive the Word. In fact, the Word also causes their lives to become very fruitful. When one seed bears a crop that is thirty, sixty or a hundredfold, it is considered a very good crop. This shows us that God wants individuals to become Christians and to pass on the Word of God to others, so that the Word bears fruit in their lives as well. We want to help our physical and spiritual children realize that as the Lord works in their lives, the Lord also wants to work through their lives as they learn to share the Word of God with others. The Lord wants to help them become reproducing

Christians. May the Lord richly bless you as you show your children how to become reproducing Christians.