

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Text: Luke 8:4-15 (ASV)

INTRO: One of Jesus' best known parables is the Parable of the Sower. We suggest it could have been called the Parable of the Hearts. The different kinds of soil in the parable represent the different attitude of hearts possessed by Jesus' listeners. For the next few minutes, let us examine that parable, & learn the lessons Christ would have us learn from it.

I. THE WAYSIDE, vs. 4-5, 12.

A. The nature of the hearts represented: cold, unbelieving, without ability to receive the word.

1. Not lacking in fertility, Felix, Acts 24
2. Hard, impenetrable

B. The seed fell BY or BESIDE the wayside. It failed to penetrate the mind, stayed on the surface.

C. The devil takes the word away because he knows the power of the word of God. Rom. 1:16; James 1:21

D. Results: No life.

II. THE ROCKY GROUND, vs. 6, 13.

A. The nature of the hearts represented: shallow, emotional, moved on impulse by sentiment rather than by rational reasoning.

B. The seed fell ON the rocky ground. The word finds a hiding place on the shallow soil, but does not take root. The word is given passing interest, but when temptation or persecution comes, the shallow-minded learner soon falls away, Gal. 1:6-9.

C. Results: Life, but only briefly. Not steadfast, dependable.

III. THE THORNY GROUND, vs. 7, 14.

A. Nature of hearts represented: the double-minded, the hearts with mixed motives. Those who want to have eternal

life without giving up worldly goals & treasures.

1. Not lacking in fertility, but no soil can produce a crop of wheat & a crop of thorns at the same time.

2. Worldly success: money, pleasures, etc.

B. The seed fell AMIDST or AMONG thorns.

C. Result: Life--but no fruit to maturity.

READ JOHN 15:1-8

IV. THE GOOD GROUND, vs. 8, 15.

A. Nature of hearts represented: honest & good, receptive, logical.

B. The seed fell INTO good ground.

C. Result: life & fruit in abundance.

V. THE LESSON FOR US.

A. The sower should be faithful & impartial. Broadcast the seed over all the soils. Give an opportunity to each heart. The quality of the soil will be judged by the harvest, not by outward appearance.

B. The harvest does not depend entirely on the faithfulness of the sower or on the quality of the seed, though these are extremely important. The harvest is also dependent on the nature of the soil upon or into which the seed lodges.

C. There are 3 reasons why some who hear the word will not inherit everlasting life: indifference, shallowness, & double- mindedness.

D. In order to succeed, one must receive the word, meditate upon it, & exercise patience in the course God has set before us.

Jonestown, TX, June 23, 1968

Springhill, LA, May 16, 1971

La Porte, TX, September 2, 1977

Exton, PA, June 9, 1991
Vale, Valparaiso, IN, July 12, 2000 (VBS)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 16, 2000