

The Parable of the Sower

By Abri Brancken, 1 Jul 2018

INTRODUCTION

Why do different people respond differently to the same message? Why do some reject the Gospel of Christ and others accept it and live Christian lives? Jesus provides an answer to this question in the parable of the sower.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:3-23

And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the birds came and devoured them.

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth. And they sprang up immediately, because they had no deepness of earth.

And the sun rising, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away.

And some fell among thorns. And the thorns sprung up and choked them.

And some fell on the good ground and yielded fruit, indeed one a hundredfold, and one sixty, and one thirty.

The Parable of the Sower Explained

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 catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown by the wayside.

But that which was sown on the stony places is this: he who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy. But he has no root in himself, and is temporary. For when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the Word, he immediately stumbles.

And that sown into the thorns is this: he who hears the Word; and the anxiety of this world, and the deceit of riches, choke the Word, and he becomes unfruitful.

But that sown on the good ground is this: he who hears the Word and understands; who also bears fruit and produces one truly a hundredfold; and one sixty; and one thirty.

All of us are in one of these 4 categories. I often see people who served God faithfully for some time, but then became lukewarm and even cold due to the deceitfulness of wealth, etc.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF HEARTS

There are four possible outcomes that will present itself every time when someone hears the Gospel message and the Truth about God.

WHAT TYPE OF SOIL ARE YOU?

Jesus tells us about a person who is sowing seed. The seed ends up falling on four types of soil. The 4 types of soil represent the four types of hearts we find within people.

1. On the path where people walk
2. On rocky ground
3. On soil already filled with plants having thorns
4. On good soil

These seeds all have different fates. Only the seed that falls on the good soil survives, and it produces grain up to a hundredfold.

THE 4 TYPES OF SOIL REPRESENT 4 TYPES OF HEARTS

1. Soil or heart no. 1 – Don't understand the message

The seed sown by the way side represent the heart of someone who does not really understand the truth of what life is all about. The receiver did not understand it in his heart and the devil stole the seed, the seed on the path is eaten by birds. This type of person cannot partake in the blessing the seed of the Gospel were to produce seeing that the seed were stolen.

2. Soil or heart no. 2 – No roots

The seed sown on the rocky place represent the heart of someone that hearts about Jesus and accepts it, but the message has no root in itself because the soil (heart) is filled with other issues, stones, and when tribulation and persecution come because of the truth they are living for, they stumble. That which fell on rocky ground does grow, but it grows too fast and it is scorched when the sun comes up, because the root is too shallow. The external issues and pressures.

3. Soil or heart no. 3 – Greed of life kills the Kingdom life

The seed sown among the thorns represent the heart that hears the Word, accepts it, but as time goes on the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and that person's life becomes unfruitful. Greediness and life's worries are dangerous enemies. It can rob you from your eternal future. So, the seed that falls on the soil with thorns also grows, but the thorns choke it and it too dies.

4. Soil or heart no. 4 – Good soil

The seed sown in the good ground represent the heart that is willing to make a lifelong commitment to God and the Kingdom life. He understands the message, the price he is going to have to pay and commits to it. This life bears fruit, producing a harvest, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Soil nr. 4 is the only one that produced fruit! Sadly, the church is filled with non-fruit producing Christians. Only the seed that falls on the good soil survives, and it produces grain up to a hundredfold.

THE SEED

There is nothing wrong with the seed, the ground is the determining factor whether it is going to grow or not. The Seed of God's Truth cannot perish but when sown into the wrong heart, it simply cannot grow.

1 Peter 1:23, NIV

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

CONCLUSION

The thing is, you cannot change your soil. You need a gardener. Jesus is that gardener and He alone is the person that can change the quality of our hearts. When Mary saw Jesus after the resurrection, Mary thought Jesus was a gardener.

John 20:15

Jesus said to her, Woman, why do you weep? Whom do you seek? Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, Sir, if you have carried Him away from here, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away.

Also, the 1st Adam was a gardener. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the second Adam.

1Corinthians 15:45

And so it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul," the last Adam was a life-giving Spirit.

Ask the Lord to change our hearts! Submit to him and act upon the Truth. Don't just be a hearer of the word but a doer! Keep your eyes on heavenly things where Christ is because there is only one of the four soils that bear fruit!