

Parable of The Sower

Conditions of The Heart

5/7/2017

Pastor Mel Silas

Parable of the Sower Meaning



SOWER SOWS THE WORD

Matthew 13:1-23 (NKJV)

¹ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some *seed* 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 immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Matthew 13:18-23 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ 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.

This parable is speaking about the condition of our hearts

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

We will be judged by God for what we have in our hearts and the works of our hearts

Matthew 13:10-12 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the *mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Conditions: What does it mean when we say the condition of something or someone?

- The particular state of or ability to function
- The factors or circumstances that affect a person or situation somebody is living or working in.

IN THIS PARABLE WE HAVE FOUR CONDITIONS OF THE HEART

1ST CONDITION THE WAYSIDE

2ND. CONDITION STONY PLACES

3RD. CONDITION THORNS:

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

4th. CONDITION THE GOOD GROUND

1ST CONDITION THE WAYSIDE

The seed by the wayside (v.19)

a. Identity: A person who is hard and close-minded and a closed heart (v.19a)

b. Problem: His heart is not soft; the seed is unable to penetrate (v.19b)

c. Result: Satan snatches the seed away (v.19c)

Note: these hear the Word but they do not understand it ([Matthew 13:19](#)).

- They are in the church regularly, and the Word falls upon them.
- Some have made public decisions, and some have not;
- They are paying little attention to what is going on.
- Those who have made decisions which are not genuine.

They are hard, very hard, with closed minds and concrete hearts; therefore, they pay no attention and give no heed to the Word. Their mind is elsewhere.

There are at least four reasons why people become hardened to the gospel.

1. They rebel and rebel. They react because of some tragedy or some circumstance and they blame God.

2. They do not stay awake or alert; they do not pay attention.

3. They are careless in handling the gospel. They treat the gospel as an *item*, an *additive*, a part of life instead of life itself.

4. They are deceived. What matters to them is attendance, being present in *worship services* and bible study. It is like going to school but not learning anything just in the building. Attendance is more important than attention.

"For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" ([Acts 28:27](#)).

Thought 1. A person is held accountable for the kind of heart he or she has: hard, emotional, superficial, thorny, or soft and tender.

2nd. CONDITION STONY PLACES

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

The seed on stony ground (v.20-21)

- a. Identity: A person who experiences a quick, dramatic conversion (v.20)
- b. Problem: He has little root and is unprepared to face the trials and persecution of life (v.21a)
- c. The result: He falls away (v.21b)(13:5-6, 20-21)

Stony Places— Backsliding— False Profession:

The application is clear: this person has what appears to be a dramatic and theatrical conversion. He makes a decision for Christ, and he stands out as an example of a changed life and quick growth. However, the change lasts only for a season, perhaps an extended season, but in the end it fails.

Note four things about this person ([Matthew 13:20-21](#)):

- ⇒ he hears the Word
- ⇒ he receives the Word immediately
- ⇒ he receives the Word with joy
- ⇒ he endures for a while.

Note why this person fails.

1. He has no root in himself ([Matthew 13:21](#)). He has not rooted and not grounded himself in the Word and in prayer.
2. He has not learned the doctrines and principles of Christianity.
3. He does little about the hard demands of Christ that come only through diligent study and disciplined prayer. He knows little about sacrificial obedience: "Study to show thyself approved" ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)).
4. He has little spiritual strength to withstand the trials and persecutions of life. Pressure from circumstances or former friends of the world—mockery, abuse or whatever—causes him to cave in.

"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great" ([Luke 6:49](#)).

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" ([Luke 9:62](#)).

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements [the world], whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" ([Galatians 4:9](#)).

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

Thought 1. Hearing the Word preached and taught will not get a person into heaven. A person has to receive the Word and act on the Word.

Thought 2. A great mistake is sometimes made with persons experiencing dramatic conversions. They are pushed forward as a strong testimony long before they have proven the genuineness of their conversion ([1 Tim. 3:10](#)).

Thought 3. "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" ([Matthew 10:22](#)).

3RD. CONDITION THORNS:

²² 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.

The seed among thorns (v.22)

a. Identity: A person who is religious and worldly minded (v.22a)

b. Problem: Worldliness (v.22b)

c. Result: Word is choked and he bears no fruit (v.22c)

Thorns— Worldliness— Wealth:

Thorns represent those who receive the Word as an addition to their life. The Word is merely added on, not allowed to replace the world and the things of it. These do not truly repent; they just try to take God and add Him to their collection in life. They make Him only a small part of their affairs; consequently, the Word is always choked to death.

([1 John 2:15-16](#)).

Thought 1. Riches do exist. And their *locality* is clearly stated. There is wealth both on *earth* and in *heaven*.

Thought 2. It is easier to covet earthly things than heavenly things for four reasons.

- 1) They are seen and can be handled.
- 2) They are sought by most people, and other people influence us. A person is either worldly minded or heavenly minded ([Romans 8:5-7](#)).

Everything ages, dies, deteriorates, and decays. Things are on the earth only for a brief time, and then they are no more. Everything has the seed of corruption within it.

Earthly riches are insecure. The things on earth are insecure for three reasons.

- ⇒ They can be stolen or eaten up.
- ⇒ They do not last; they waste away.

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

⇒ A person cannot take a single thing with him when he passes from this world.

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" ([1 Tim. 6:7](#)).

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" ([1 Tim. 6:10](#)).

1. Thorns are "the cares of this world"
2. They *entangle* a person in the world and the things of the world ([2 Tim. 2:3-4](#)).
3. When a person's mind is on *the cares of the world*, his mind is not on God and the things of the Word or Spirit. He is carnal-minded, not spiritual-minded ([Romans 8:5-8](#); [2 Cor. 10:3-5](#)).

"And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful" ([Mark 4:19](#)).

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" ([1 Tim. 6:9](#)).

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven" ([Matthew 19:23](#)).

"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" ([1 Tim. 6:7](#)).

"The increase of his house shall depart, and his goods shall flow away in the day of his [God's] wrath" ([Job 20:28](#)).

4th. CONDITION THE GOOD GROUND

²³ 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."

The seed on good ground (v.23)

a. Identity: Those who hear and understand the Word (v.23a)

b. Result: They bear fruit, but they bear different percentages (v.23b)

([13:8](#), [23](#)) **Fruit— Salvation**: only a small number allowed the Word to take permanent root. A person who allows the Word to take permanent root represents the honest and good heart ([Luke 8:15](#)). Christ says two things about him.

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

1. He hears the Word of God and understands it. His heart is soft and tender toward God, so he listens, meditates, concentrates, and thinks on it. He is not hypocritical, wasting his time and being present physically, but absent mentally.

2. He does not allow his thoughts to wander off when the Word of God is being preached. He is responsible and behaves intelligently. He listens to God's Word, studies and receives it.

3. He is fruitful. He bears the fruit of God's Word and Spirit in his own life ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). And he reproduces himself by reaching out to lead others to a saving knowledge of the Lord

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)).

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" ([John 12:24](#)).

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" ([John 15:5](#)).

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" ([Col. 1:10](#)).

"Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing" ([Psalm 92:13-14](#)).

Thought 1. God's Word shall never return to Him void ([Isaiah 55:11](#)). This is a glorious encouragement to the true minister and teacher of God.

Thought 2. Fruit is that which distinguishes the true believer from the hypocrite.

You will Produce in Line with Your Commitment:

Commitment: Not all believers are equal. Some bear only 30% fruit; some 60% fruit; and shockingly, only a very small number bear 100% fruit. Most are just not willing to give 100% of their energy, effort, strength, time, and possessions. There is not the willingness to pay the price—not within most men.

Decision: Christ issues a strong call, "Hear. The person who has ears to hear, let him hear" It is your decision whether you position your heart to hear

SOWER SOWS THE WORD

**"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven"
([Matthew 7:21](#)).**

Thought 1. The ear has no greater purpose than to hear the message of God.