

Blessings in the House

The Seed and The Soil

A weekly devotional message for the family

The Seed and the Soil

“And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. (2) And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, (3) Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: (4) And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. (5) And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: (6) But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. (7) And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. (8) And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. (9) And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Mark 4:1-9).

This parable talks about a farmer who went out to plant seed. The main focus of this parable is on the ground in which the seed fell on. After Jesus taught this parable, His disciples came and asked Him the meaning of it.

The Sower and the Seed

“The sower soweth the word” (Mark 4:14).

The seed is the Word of God. The sower is one who preaches or spreads the Word. As the seed falls on all types of soil, the Word of God comes to all types of people. The different types of soil, represents the different types of people who hear the Word of God.

The Wayside

“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4: 15).

As the ground is hard and cannot receive the seed; there are those who have a hard heart, and they do not want to receive the Word of God. Since their hearts are hard to the Word, it is easy for Satan to come and steal the Word that was planted.

“Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness” (Psa 95:8).

“Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief” (Pro 28:14).

We are warned about having a hard heart. If we harden our hearts, then we cannot hear the Word of God when it is preached to us, and we cannot receive the benefits of the Word.

The Stony Ground

“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; (17) And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended” (Mark 4:16-17).

The ground received the seed, and the seed grew fast. However, when the roots tried to go deep into the earth, the stones stopped them, and the plant died. This is like people who receive the Word of God with great joy. However, they do not let the Word go deep into their lives. These people are emotional hearers; they like what they hear. But they only follow the Lord when it is convenient. And when persecution comes, they quickly fall away.

They do not allow the Word to go deep in their lives, because they are very shallow. *“And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do*

them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness” (Eze. 33:31). They come and hear the Word of God, but they do not want to obey it. They would rather do the evil things that are in their hearts.

These people are very unstable. “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Eph. 4:14).

The Thorny Ground

“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, (19) 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 4:18-19).

This type of person loves riches more than they love God. “And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; (14) Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage” (Deu. 8:13-14). After the Lord blesses them, then they forget who blessed them.

Some people try very hard to be rich, and as a result they fall into many temptations and snares. “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” (I Tim. 6:9).

The Good Ground

“And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred” (Mark 4:20).

All types of soil have the potential of being good ground. As a farmer prepares the ground to receive the seed, let us prepare our hearts to receive the Word of God.

The first thing that we must do is to break up the fallow ground in our hearts, and allow the Word to come in. “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12). As we prepare our hearts to receive the Word, then we must continue reading and studying the Word.

Then we must be faithful through out all trials, temptations and persecutions.

“He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock; and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock” (Luke 6:48).

Everyone is tested, so when we are tested let us have a strong foundation in the Word of God. Let us not be changing our minds everyday. Let us be strong in our faith and continue walking with the Lord no matter what happens. Let us also be faithful in attending the House of God (the church). This is where we hear the preaching of the Word. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom 10:17).

Let us trust in the Lord at all times. “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you” (I Peter 5:7).

Let the Spirit of Christ dwell in us. “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness” (Rom. 8:10). And as the Spirit is in us, let us continue praying and allowing the Spirit to guide us.

If we will follow these four steps, we will never fall, and the Lord will always be there to help us. “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (11) For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (II Peter 1:10-11).