

The Parable of the Sower

September 22, 2016

Mark 4:1-20 NASB

1 He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.

2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

3 Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow;

4 as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil.

6 And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

8 Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables.

11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables,

12 so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear and not understand, otherwise they might return and be forgiven."

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

14 **THE SOWER SOWS THE WORD.**

15 **THESE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE BESIDE THE ROAD WHERE THE WORD IS SOWN; AND WHEN THEY HEAR, IMMEDIATELY SATAN COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD WHICH HAS BEEN SOWN IN THEM.**

16 **IN A SIMILAR WAY THESE ARE THE ONES ON WHOM SEED WAS SOWN ON THE ROCKY PLACES, WHO, WHEN THEY HEAR THE WORD, IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE IT WITH JOY;**

17 **AND THEY HAVE NO FIRM ROOT IN THEMSELVES, BUT ARE ONLY TEMPORARY; THEN, WHEN AFFLICTION OR PERSECUTION ARISES BECAUSE OF THE WORD, IMMEDIATELY THEY FALL AWAY.**

18 **AND OTHERS ARE THE ONES ON WHOM SEED WAS SOWN AMONG THE THORNS; THESE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE HEARD THE WORD,**

19 **BUT THE WORRIES OF THE WORLD, AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, AND THE DESIRES FOR OTHER THINGS ENTER IN AND CHOKES THE WORD, AND IT BECOMES UNFRUITFUL.**

20 **AND THOSE ARE THE ONES ON WHOM SEED WAS SOWN ON THE GOOD SOIL; AND THEY HEAR THE WORD AND ACCEPT IT AND BEAR FRUIT, THIRTY, SIXTY, AND A HUNDREDFOLD.**

The Christian fights a spiritual war in 3 arenas:

1. Satan and the Kingdom of Darkness
2. The world system
3. The flesh with its sinful passions

Jesus identifies five weapons of this world system which Satan uses to attack and destroy our spiritual life, devotion and faith.

THE ROCKY SOIL - *Affliction and Persecution*

Affliction

James 1:2-4 NASB

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, **WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER VARIOUS** (*poikilos - different, diverse*) **TRIALS**,

3 knowing that the **TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES ENDURANCE.**

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 1:6 NASB

6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **DISTRESSED BY VARIOUS** (*poikilos - different, diverse*) **TRIALS**.

“Various” trials and adversity come from:

1. *God - to test, exercise and mature our faith and character*
2. *Satan - to oppose, discourage, scare, wear down, overwhelm, condemn*
3. *World System - the darkness and evil around us*

Persecution

Satan will use people as his puppets of hatred for your God and for you. As a Christian, you should expect persecution.

Matthew 24:9-10 NASB

9 Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

The SOLUTION - Deep Roots

Mark 4 NASB

5 Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had **NO DEPTH OF SOIL**.

17 AND THEY HAVE NO FIRM ROOT IN THEMSELVES, BUT ARE ONLY TEMPORARY; THEN, WHEN AFFLICTION OR PERSECUTION ARISES BECAUSE OF THE WORD, IMMEDIATELY THEY FALL AWAY.

The **FIRM**(vs.5 - *“depth of soil”*) **ROOT** provides:

1. nourishment from deep down when the surface is barren and dry
2. stability and strength from wind and storms

“NO FIRM ROOT IN THEMSELVES”

Clearly states the importance of each Christian having a deep, personal relationship with God individually. One plant cannot live off of another plant’s root; it must have it’s own root.

“BUT ARE ONLY TEMPORARY”

You can live temporarily (sometimes even years) vicariously off of other’s faith and devotion to God. But at some point, you will encounter adversity and trials where another’s faith will not sustain you, you must have your own individual root and source in God.

Psalm 1:1-4 NASB

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 **BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, AND IN HIS LAW HE MEDITATES DAY AND NIGHT.**

3 **HE WILL BE LIKE A TREE FIRMLY PLANTED BY STREAMS OF WATER, WHICH YIELDS ITS FRUIT IN ITS SEASON AND ITS LEAF DOES NOT WITHER; AND IN WHATEVER HE DOES, HE PROSPERS.**

4 **THE WICKED ARE NOT SO, BUT THEY ARE LIKE CHAFF WHICH THE WIND DRIVES AWAY.**

THE THORNY GROUND - *Worries of the World, Deceitfulness of Riches, Desires for Other Things*

Worries of the World

The anxiety of providing for the necessities of this earth life, when Jesus said to take no thought, do not be anxious, for tomorrow.

Matthew 6:31-34 NASB

31 **DO NOT WORRY THEN, SAYING, 'WHAT WILL WE EAT?' OR 'WHAT WILL WE DRINK?' OR 'WHAT WILL WE WEAR FOR CLOTHING?'**

32 **FOR THE GENTILES EAGERLY SEEK ALL THESE THINGS; FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS THAT YOU NEED ALL THESE THINGS.**

33 **BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE ADDED TO YOU.**

34 **SO DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW; FOR TOMORROW WILL CARE FOR ITSELF. EACH DAY HAS ENOUGH TROUBLE OF ITS OWN.**

Deceitfulness of Riches

The false security that money will protect and provide for you. The false hope that money will make you happy and satisfied. Both are empty lies.

1 Timothy 6:9-10 NASB

9 **BUT THOSE WHO WANT TO GET RICH FALL INTO TEMPTATION AND A SNARE AND MANY FOOLISH AND HARMFUL DESIRES WHICH PLUNGE MEN INTO RUIN AND DESTRUCTION.**

10 **FOR THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A ROOT OF ALL SORTS OF EVIL, AND SOME BY LONGING FOR IT HAVE WANDERED AWAY FROM THE FAITH AND PIERCED THEMSELVES WITH MANY GRIEFS.**

Matthew 6:24 NASB

24 **NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS; FOR EITHER HE WILL HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR HE WILL BE DEVOTED TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND WEALTH.**

Desires for Other Things

The addictive insanity of covetousness that for the sake of happiness and/or security, I have to have more or different. What I have is not good enough.

Ecclesiastes 1:8 NASB

8 THE EYE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH SEEING, NOR IS THE EAR FILLED WITH HEARING.

Proverbs 27:20 NASB

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, **NOR ARE THE EYES OF MAN EVER SATISFIED.**

The SOLUTION - Eliminate the Thorns

Galatians 5:24 NASB

24 NOW THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES.

1 Corinthians 9:27 NASB

27 but **I DISCIPLINE MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE**, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

1 THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES SURROUNDING US, LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE EVERY ENCUMBRANCE AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENTANGLES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US,

2 FIXING (*aphoraō - to turn the eyes away from other things and fix them on something*) OUR EYES ON JESUS, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.